

# practice room



From *The Essence of Afro-Cuban Percussion & Drum Set*  
By Ed Uribe  
Published by Warner Bros.

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## Rumba Styles

By Ed Uribe

### Sound Enhanced

Hear audio examples of these rhythms in the Members Only section of the PAS Website ([www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org)).

There are three Rumba rhythm styles: Guaguancó, Yambú, and Columbia. Originally the Rumba was played on the cajones—wooden boxes in three different sizes—that functioned as the three congas do now.

In the following examples, the Quinto (high drum) improvises and interacts with vocals, dancers, and the other two drummers.

- Key
- H = heel of hand
- T = toe or tip (fingertips)
- S = slap
- P = palm tone (closed)
- B = bass tone
- O = open tone

#### GUAGUANCÓ

The Guaguancó has a wide variety of interpretations both in its conga drumming as well as its other percussion and vocal parts.

Clave

Salidor (low)

H T T O O H H T T O O

R L R L R R R L R L R R

Tres Golpes (medium)

S S B S P S O S O S P S

R L R L R L R L R L R L

Quinto (high)

Ad Lib

#### YAMBÚ

The Yambú is the oldest and slowest of the three Rumba styles and is traditionally played on the cajones—especially when played by folkloric ensembles—but can also be performed on congas.

Clave

Salidor (low)

H H T T O O H H T T O O

R L R L R R R L R L R R

Tres Dos (medium)

O T H H T T O O T H H T T

R L R L R L R L L R L R L

Quinto (high)

Ad Lib

#### COLUMBIA

The Columbia is the fastest of the three Rumba styles and is played in 6/8.

Clave

Salidor (low)

H T S P O O H T S P O O

L L R L R R L L R L R R

Tres Dos (medium)

S O O S O O

L R L L R L

Quinto (high)

Ad Lib



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