

Kuchi-shōga

This is the system of syllables used by the Japanese to teach music to taiko group members. Basics that you need to know for our work here:

Kuchi-shōga	Description
DON	Accented hit with your right hand...quarter note
KON	Accented hit with your left hand...quarter note
DO	Accented hit with your right hand...eighth note
RO	Accented hit with your left hand...eighth note
do	Unaccented hit with your right hand, eighth note
ko	Unaccented hit with your left hand, eighth note
don-go	Swung eighth note pair...R-L
Ka	Soft rim hit with your right hand, eighth note
Ra	Soft rim hit with your left hand, eighth note
Ka-Ta	16 th note rim hit...R-L
(su)	Rest...eighth note

The piece that we will be learning is scripted out below:

Asayake

(Slow Section)

Part A: Don (su su) Kon (su su) Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part B: Don Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part C: (su su) Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part D: Do-Ko (su) Ka-Ra (su) Don Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part E: Do-Ko Ka-Ra Don Kon Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Bridge*: Don (su su) Don (su su) Don Don Don Don

**--both hands, on the rims*

(Fast Section...twice as fast)

Part A: Don (su su) Kon (su su) Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part B: Don Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part C: (su su) Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part D: Do-Ko (su) Ka-Ra (su) Don Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part E: Do-Ko Ka-Ra Don Kon Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part F: |: (su su) Do-Ko Don Kon :| (3x) Do-Ko Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)
(su su) Don (su su) Kon Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part G: |: (su su) Don Ra (su) Don :| (3x) Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part H: |: Don-go Do-Ko :| (3x)

Ending: |: Don-go Do-Ko :| (3x) Don Kon Don

Performance:

Slow Section:

- Soloist plays: A, B, C, D, E
- Full Group plays: A, B, C, D, E

Bridge played by all on the rims.

Fast Section (twice as fast), everyone plays:

A, B, C, D, E

A, B, C, D, E

F, F, G, G, H

A, B, C, D, E

A, B, C, D, E

F, F, G, G, Ending

Asayake – Slow Section

Part A: Don (su su) Kon (su su) Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part B: Don Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part C: (su su) Don (su su) Kon Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part D: Do-Ko (su) Ka-Ra (su) Don Kon Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part E: Do-Ko Ka-Ra Don Kon Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

(soloist, then group)

Asayake – Bridge (Played with both hands on the rims)

Bridge: Don (su su) Don (su su) Don Don Don Don

Asayake – Fast Section (Twice as fast as the slow section)

Slow Section |: A, B, C, D, E :|

Part F: |: (su su) Do-Ko Don Kon :| (3x) Do-Ko Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)
(su su) Don (su su) Kon Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part G: |: (su su) Don Ra (su) Don :| (3x) Don Ka-Ra Ka (su) Ra (su)

Part H: |: Don-go Do-Ko :| (3x)

Slow Section |: A, B, C, D, E :|

Fast Section F, F, G, G

Ending: |: Don-go Do-Ko :| (3x) Don Kon Don