

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
(su)	Rest...eighth note

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

ISAMI GOMA

Part A: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) DON (su su) KON (su su)
DON KON DON KON DON KON DON KON :|

Part B: |: don-go (su)-go don-go don-go :| (4x)

Part C: |: don-go (su)-go don-go (su)-go
don-go don-go (su su) KA (su) :|

Part D: |: don-go don-go don-go don-go
don-go (su)-go DON (su su) :|

Part E: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) don-go don-go DON (su su) :|

Part A1: |: Don (su su) KON (su su) DON (su su) KON (su su)
don-go don-go don-go don-go
don-go don-go don-go don-go :|

Part D1: |: don-go (su)-go don-go don-go
don-go (su)-go DON (su su) :|

Performance:

Sections are played as follows (with any repeats):

- A, B, C, D, E
- A (rhythm on rim with both sticks), A1, B, C, D1, E
- [Solos]
- A (rhythm on rim with both sticks), A1, B, C, D1, E

ISAMI GOMA

Part A: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) DON (su su) KON (su su)
DON KON DON KON DON KON DON KON :|

Part B: |: don-go (su)-go don-go don-go :| (4x)

Part C: don-go (su)-go don-go (su)-go don-go don-go (su su) KA (su)
go-don (su)-don go-don (su)-don go-don go-don (su su) KA (su)

Part D: |: don-go don-go don-go don-go
don-go (su)-go DON (su su) :|

Part E: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) don-go don-go DON (su su) :|

Part A1: |: Don (su su) KON (su su) DON (su su) KON (su su)
don-go don-go don-go don-go don-go don-go don-go don-go :|

Part D1: |: don-go (su)-go don-go don-go don-go (su)-go DON (su su) :|