

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
ka	Soft rim hit with your right hand, eighth note
ra	Soft rim hit with your left hand, eighth note
go	Swung note hit with left hand, eighth note
don-go	Swung pair of eighth notes
(su)	Rest...eight note

The piece that we will be learning is a basic festival piece. It is scripted out below:

MATSURI

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

Part A¹: DON Ka (su) DON Ka (su) DON

Part B: DON KON (su su) DON KON

Part C: Ka* (su) don Ka (su) KON DON

Part D: do-KO Ka (su) Ra (su) DON KON

Part E: do-ko ka-ra DON KON DON

END: |: DON do don do KON :| (3x) DON

Tag: ka-ra Ka (Su) Ra (su)

Performance:

A-tag, B-tag, C-tag, D-tag, E-tag, END-tag

A¹-tag, B-tag, C-tag, D-tag, E-tag, END-tag

SOLOS

A¹-tag, B-tag, C-tag, D-tag, E-tag, END-tag

* -- Click sticks together, right on top

MATSURI

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

Part A¹: DON Ka (su) DON Ka (su) DON

Part B: DON KON (su su) DON KON

Part C: Ka* (su) don Ka (su) KON DON

Part D: do-KO Ka (su) Ra (su) DON KON

Part E: do-ko ka-ra DON KON DON

END: |: DON do don do KON :| (3x) DON

Tag: ka-ra Ka (Su) Ra (su)

* -- Click sticks together, right on top