



INSTRUMENTS OF SAMBA

5 MINUTES READING #3



Samba features a large percussion ensemble called a Bateria (meaning “drum kit” in Spanish and Portuguese)

Surdo (*shown left*)

A bass drum used to mark the beat of samba music. They keep a steady beat and alternate between higher and lower pitches. A smaller Surdo often plays an important role within the ensemble.



Repinique

A small drum like the snare drum but taller that is usually played with one stick and the bare hand. It has a more metallic sound than the snare drum and can be used to play solo cues such as call and response patterns.



Agogo Bells (*shown above left*)

A cowbell sounding instrument with two bells that is struck by a wooden stick used in Samba music. The bells can also produce a sound by squeezing them so that they strike each other. Like the Tamborim the Agogo Bells play more complicated rhythms than the Surdo or Chocolo often featuring syncopation.

Questions to think about:

1. Explain why all of these Bateria of percussion instruments used in Samba belong to the “Untuned Percussion” group of instruments.
2. For each of the instruments described above, find an example of an instrument that you have in your music classroom that is most similar to it with a similar **TIMBRE** and **SONORITY**.
3. Why are all the instruments used in Samba very loud?

Caixa de Guerreo (*shown above left*)

A drum similar to the Repinique but with springs on the bottom to create vibration much like a snare drum.

Tamborim

This is a small-headed drum that is tuned very high and struck very quick and sharp with a flexible stick.



The player can press and tighten the skin or dampen the sound whilst playing and plays more complicated, often syncopated rhythms than the Surdo or Chocolo.

Chocolo

A shaker made of either many small cymbal like metal pieces or a large metal cans filled with rocks, sand or other material. It plays even notes throughout.



Reco-Reco

This is a scraper which plays the same time values as the chocolo.

