Maracatu Meets Technique,
Part 2: Adding Independence

By Stephane Chamberland; inspired by Eduardo Guedes

In the last issue we talked about upstrokes and downstrokes, formal and informal techniques, and learned some Brazilian Maracatu rhythms on the snare drum. Let's continue with one more variation on the snare and bring those variations over to the drum set.

This time we will interpret the accents on 2, 3, and 4 as pullouts and the accent on 1 as a control stroke alternating hands. See Ex. 1.

It's time! Let's apply it to the drum set in playing the entire Maracatu percussion parts. I encourage you to try this exercise by practicing the left hand first, then the right hand, and then put both hands together before adding the feet. The Agogô part, adapted between hi-hat and snare and another cool Maracatu bell pattern, will look like Ex. 2 and 3.

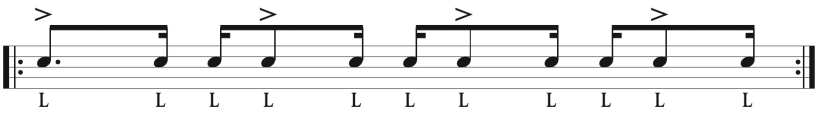
These are challenging grooves due to the advanced level of independence required. I recommend the books, *Advanced Techniques for the Modern Drummer* by Jim Chapin and *The New Breed* by Gary Chester if you would like to build more independence in preparation for, or in addition to, these grooves.

This is just a stepping-off point. There are a lot of possibilities when it comes to using pullouts, control strokes, and the Moeller technique in the context of Brazilian rhythms.

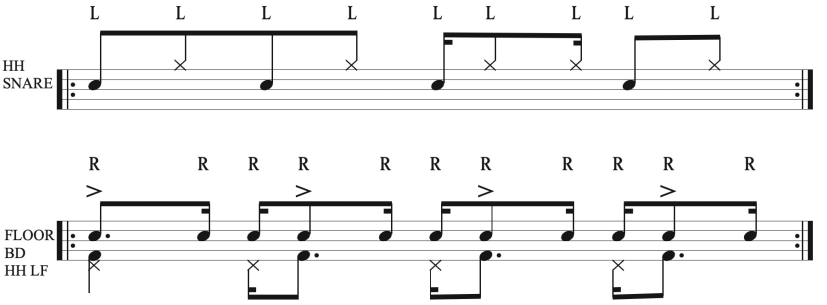
For further information on these subjects and the style discussed in this article, I suggest the following books:

- *Accents and Rebounds* by George Lawrence Stone
- *Master Studies I & II* by Joe Morello
- *It's Your Move* by Dom Famularo
- *Brazil for Drum Set – Vol. 1 (North East)* by Eduardo Guedes
- *Brazilian Rhythms for Drum Set* by Duduka da Fonseca
- *Future Sounds 2.0* by David Garibaldi
- *Advanced Techniques for the Modern Drummer* by Jim Chapin
- *The New Breed* by Gary Chester

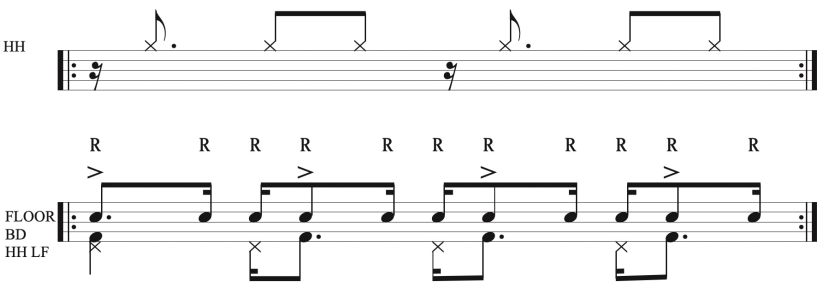
EX. 1



EX. 2



EX. 3



Stephane Chamberland is an internationally-recognized drummer and educator. He proudly endorses Yamaha drums, Sabian cymbals, Vic Firth sticks, Remo drumheads, Shure Microphones and Prologix Percussion. He is the co-author of the books The Weaker Side, Pedal Control, *and* Drumset Duets. *For more info, email Stephane at global2steph@icloud.com or visit www.stephanechamberland.com.*