

Contemporary Tumbao—At the Edge

One of the toughest jobs in conga drumming is to play up-tempo for long periods of time. Most congeros solve this problem by leaving behind the basic patterns in the middle of the drum and pulling their hands to the edge. Also, since singles are faster, or at least stronger, than doubles, it is possible to re-digitate the hand patterns to facilitate greater speed and ease. Practice these slowly at first, concentrating on good tone and technique, before speeding them up.

* This layer of hand patterns is for returning to the beginning of either the one- or two-bar phrase. Or in the last bar, to the beginning of the exercise.

* R L

R L R L R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L R R L R R



t s s t t s o o t s s o o s o o t s s o t s o o t s s o o s o o

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R



t s s t t s o o t s s o o s o o t s s o t s o o t s s o o s o o

L R

L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R



t s s o t s o o t s s o o s o o t s s o t s o o t s s o o s o o

L R

L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L L



t s s o t s o o s o t o t s o o t s s o t s o o s o t o t s o o

R L R R

R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R



t s s o t s o o s o t o t s o o t s s o t s o o s o t o t s o o

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R L

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

t s s t t o o o t s s t o s o o t s s t t o o o t s s t o s o o

L L R L R L R R L L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R L R L R R L R L

t s s o t s o o t s s o o s o o o s s o o s s o o s s o o s o o

R L

R R L R R L R L R L L R R L R R L R R L L R L R L R R L R L R R

o s o o s o o s s o o o o s o o o s o o o s o o s o s o o s o s

L R R L L R L L R L R L L R L R L R R L L R L R L R R B R L L R

o o s o o s o o o s s o o s s o o s o o o s o o s o o s o s o o

o