

ROOTS OF RHYTHM – CHAPTER 2: THE BONGOS FROM CUBA
FUNSHEET

Name _____ Date _____

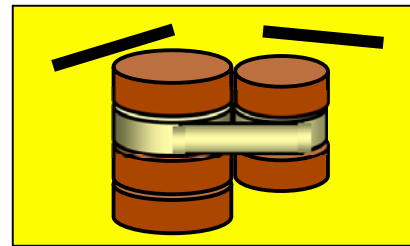
MAKE AND PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT: THE BONGOS

The bongos are two small drums that are attached to each other and are played with the hands or with sticks. They were invented around 1900 to be used as high-sounding drums in small bands in Cuba for dance music, although the idea for the two drums probably came from Africa where a low drum imitates the sound a father's voice and the high drum the sound of the mother's voice. Now played all over the world, bongos have been used in many types of music, including salsa, jazz, rock and roll, hip-hop, and classical styles.

The Bongos



Tin Can Bongos



Directions. Make your own bongos with two cans, one small and one large, each with a plastic lid. If you don't have cans, and if you get permission, you could use two books of different thicknesses. For the tin can bongos, first be sure that there are no sharp edges left from opening both of each can's metal lids and hammer them down if necessary. Next, clean and dry the cans and then tape them together. Put on the plastic lids and play your bongos with pencils or your fingers.

Play and Compose Bongo Rhythms. The main rhythm for the bongos is called *martillo* which means "hammer." You can see this eight-count rhythm below in the box notation. The small drum is the high sound and the large drum is the low sound. Try this rhythm to warm-up and then compose your own *martillo* rhythms using the box notation on the next page. Use an *R* for the right hand hits and an *L* for the left hand hits. Leave a box empty if you want a rest or no sound. Listen to examples of the *martillo* rhythm on the *Roots of Rhythm* CD.

1. Martillo Rhythm

	Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small drum		R	L	R	L	R	L		L
Large drum								R	

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Title

Bongo Rhythms

1. _____ Count 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Small drum

Large drum

2. _____ Count 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Small drum

Large drum

3. _____ Count 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Small drum

Large drum

4. _____ Count 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Small drum

Large drum

5. _____ Count 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Small drum

Large drum