

ROOTS OF RHYTHM: EXTENSIONS
CHAPTER 5: THE TURNTABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES
FUNSHEET

Name _____ Date _____

MAKE AND PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT: THE TURNTABLE

The turntable is used today as a musical instrument in urban popular music to get friction sounds called scratching. Beginning with the discovery of practical ways to use electricity in the early 1800s and the invention of the phonograph by Thomas Edison in 1877, advances in recording and amplification in the 1900s allowed the turntable to become a musical instrument. In the 1970s urban young people mainly in New York City began to set up their own turntables in parks to have their own dance party. From this was born the four elements of Hip Hop: the DJ, MC, Break Dancing and Graffiti art. The early pioneers of DJing or "turntablism" were DJ Kool Herc, Africa Bambaatta, Grand Master Flash, and Grand Wizard Theodore, each of whom contributed a new element to the art of scratching on the turntables.



DJ Drama Scratching on the Turntable



Plastic tray scratching

Homemade Turntable Scratching Rhythms

Directions. You can create scratching rhythms on any bumpy surface, like a take-out tray (see illustration above). As you rub, use your fingernails to get a loud sound and your fingertips to get a softer sound. After you experiment with this for a while, compose your own rhythms using the box notation below. For one direction use an up arrow ▲ and for the other direction use a down arrow ▼. Angled lines ↗ are for continuing a sound. Now play your rhythm that you wrote. Remember, you can use any permissible bumpy surface. For example,

1. Title Back Scratch

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	▲		▼	▲		↗	→	→

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1. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

2. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

3. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

4. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

5. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

6. Title _____

Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8