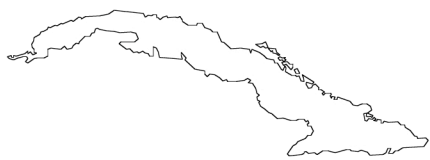


# Nañigo - Cuba



The Nañigo rhythm is played during the all-night initiation ceremonies, also called Nañigo, of a Cuban secret society for men known as Abacua. These societies were formed during colonial times to sustain the African rituals and culture

brought to Cuba by slaves. Nañigo, while no doubt still part of this rich cultural heritage, is now also a popular rhythm played by many Salsa bands.

The following version of Nañigo is a simple ensemble that exemplifies the qualities of 6/8 rhythms. There are many versions of this rhythm out there, all interpretations of the music of the Abacua society. Try to connect with Nañigo's rolling, hypnotic quality. It is easy to see how traditionally it was played all night to bring initiates into a trance state.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
High Drum	O		O	c	C	c
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Medium Drum	P		c	B		c
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Low Drum	C	c	C	c	O	o

Another element that can be added is the bass drum, or Bombo, which can play a rhythm which first divides the measure equally in two, then equally in three. Any instrument that will provide this foundation can be substituted.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Bombo	c			o			c		o		o	

One of my favorite things about Nañigo is the interplay between the claves and the cowbell. One simply plays the same pattern as the other, started one measure later.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Clave	X		X		X		X	X		X		X
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cowbell	X	X		X		X	X		X		X	

For texture, maracas, shakers, guiros or other Afro-Cuban instruments can be added as long as they either accent the beat or the "One-Two-Three" feel like the second measure of the Bombo.