



# Fruity Samba!

By Stuart Brown



A collection of rhythm flashcards written in Figurenotes notation with matching fruit names and colours that can be used to teach simple rhythms. The rhythms can be used as part of an activity to tie in with themes of food, fruit and veg, harvest, etc.

Note: The flashcards are included as a separate PDF

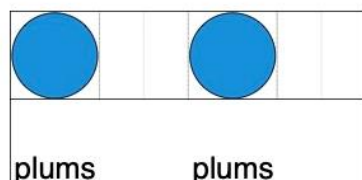


## Make your own Fruity Samba Beats



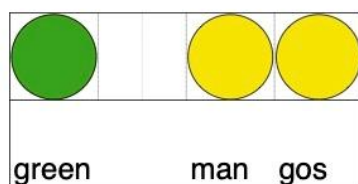
These fruity rhythms can be played individually, combined to make longer rhythms, layered on top of each other, or used for call and response (“copycat”) rhythm games.

### 1. Plums



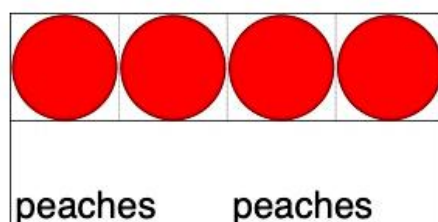
- Works really well for “keeping the beat” on a deep drum. If you have a set of coloured nesting surdo bass drums play this on the blue drum that matches the note colour.
- Can also be played on higher pitched drums, small percussion, or shakers.

### 2. Green Mangos



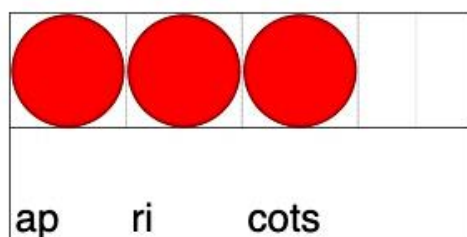
- Also works well for “keeping the beat”.
- Try playing it between two deep drums. If you have a set of coloured nesting surdo bass drums play it between the green and yellow drums.
- Can also be played on the head and the rim of a drum or on any instrument with 2 sounds (agogo bells, double woodblock, etc)

### 3. Peaches



- Twice as fast as the plums rhythm
- Play on a higher pitched instrument like a small drum or shaker (shake forward on 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> beat, backwards on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> beats)

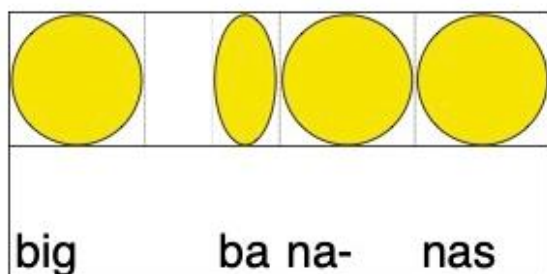
### 4. Apricot



- Same speed as the peaches rhythm but just 3 beats long.
- Works on any drum or percussion
- When playing this rhythm, tap or hit the instrument 3 times in a row then leave a break and lift your hand (or hands) in the air to mark the silent 4<sup>th</sup> beat.

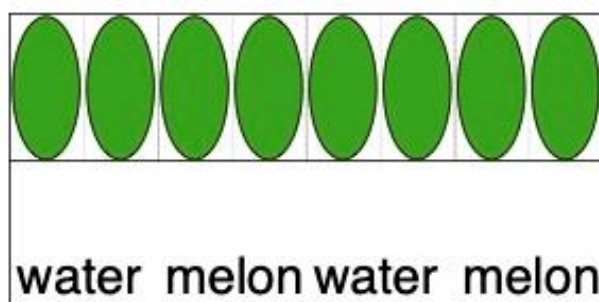


## 5. Big Bananas



- A more syncopated offbeat rhythm – leave a breath between “big” and “bananas”
- Works well on a small high-pitched drum, cowbell or woodblock
- If you have an instrument that has two sounds try playing “big” with one sound and “bananas” with the other sound

## 6. Watermelon



- A fast rhythm that works really well on a shaker.
- Shake back and forth like you did with the peaches rhythm but twice as fast!





## Fruity Samba Song



All the fruits in the rhythms feature in a song called Fruity Samba available on:

**Youtube:**

<https://youtu.be/NOpQZ95OXR8>

**and Spotify:**

<https://open.spotify.com/track/65CCWNbfsyZhT6BxwsXW9J?si=7c5c19b946cd4ce8>

Try playing each of the fruity rhythms along with the song as a group and then try splitting the class in to 2 or more groups, each playing a different rhythm.


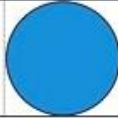


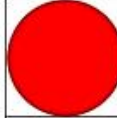
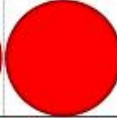
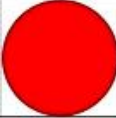


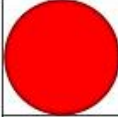
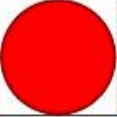
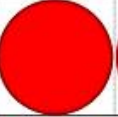

## Fruity Combos

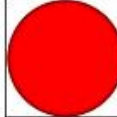
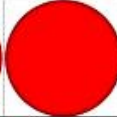




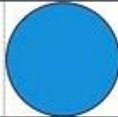
Here are some ideas for combining different fruity rhythms to make two bar patterns:

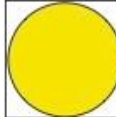

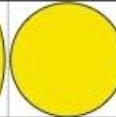
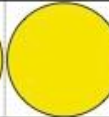
							
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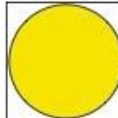

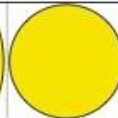
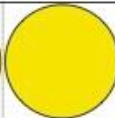
						
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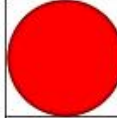
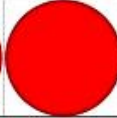
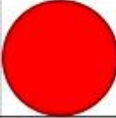
			
peaches		peaches	

					
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plums		plums					

			
big		ba na- nas	

			
big		ba na- nas	

					
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## More Fruity Samba Fun



Try using all the ideas you've tried to make a whole fruity samba song of your own. Here's an idea for an arrangement you can try:

### 1. INTRO: CALL & RESPONSE ("copycat")

- Teacher (or child) plays a fruity rhythm twice and the group copies and plays it back. Repeat this with different rhythms.

### 2. MAIN FRUITY BEAT

- One or more people start the beat with the "plums" rhythm. Gradually bring in the other fruity rhythms on top, one by one. Use only a few rhythms if you like or try different combinations.

### 3. BREAK

Try using one of the following rhythms as a break:

- - Plums, plums, apricots
  - Apricots, apricots
  - Peaches, peaches, apricots
  - Big Bananas, big bananas
- Hold up the flashcard for the rhythm/rhythms you want to use then give a count of 4. Everyone plays the break rhythm together once only then all return to the main fruity beat.





#### 4. SOLOS

- Give each person (or each small group playing the same rhythm) a solo for 4 repeats. During a solo, everyone else just plays on the 1<sup>st</sup> beat of the bar then goes back to their full rhythm after 4 repeats. Signal to a group or individual to take a solo by pointing to them and then giving them a count of 4 in.

#### 5. ENDING

- End with another break or another round of call and response like the intro.



**I hope you've enjoyed learning some fruity  
samba rhythms!**

