

Kuchi-shōga

This is the system of syllables used by the Japanese to teach music to taiko group members. Basics that you need to know for our work here:

| Kuchi-shōga | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| DON | Accented hit with your right hand...quarter note |
| KON | Accented hit with your left hand...quarter note |
| DO | Accented hit with your right hand...eighth note |
| RO | Accented hit with your left hand...eighth note |
| Do | Unaccented hit with your right hand, eighth note |
| Ko | Unaccented hit with your left hand, eighth note |
| don-go | Swung eighth note pair...R-L |
| Ka | Soft rim hit with your right hand, eighth note |
| Ra | Soft rim hit with your left hand, eighth note |
| Ka-Ta | 16 th note rim hit...R-L |
| (su) | Rest...eighth note |
| <sticks> | Hit sticks together |

The piece that we will be learning is scripted out below:

Aiko – Taishoji Taiko

A: <sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su) | <sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su)

“Ichi” “ni” “san” “So - Re”

B: |: DON ka-RO (su)-ko DON | DON ka-ra ka-ra ka-ra :| (3x)

DON ka-RO (su)-ko DON | DON (su su) (su su) (su su)

C: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) | DON KON DON KON |

don-go don-go don-go don-go | don-go don-go DON (su su) :|

D: |: DON KON DON KON | Don-Go Don-Go Don-Go (su su) :|

E: |:DON ka-ra ka-ra ka-ra | ka-(su) KON DON (su su) :|

F: |: DON ka-ra DON KON :| (3x) DON ka-ra ka-(su) (su su)

G: |: DON (su su) KON (su su) | DON KON DON KON |

<sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su) | <sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su)

“1” “2” “3” “4”

<sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su) | <sticks> (su su) <sticks> (su su) :|

“5” “6” “7” “So- Re”

Performance:

A-B-C-D-E-F-G-C-D-E-F-B