

Microgrooves

Loops for percussion and electronics

Karl Ronneburg

microgroove 1: slowed beats 2 and 4

Slowing beats 2 and 4 of a half-time rock beat by 30% creates an extreme "laid back" feel.

Drumset

♩=144 ♩=110.78 ♩=144 ♩=110.78 ♩=144

microgroove 2: slow 6/4

Dr. ♩ = 75 ♩ = 65.22 (15% slower on beats 3 and 4) ♩ = 75 (a brief pause before beat 6)

Perc. gong metal plate castanets

Synth.

microgroove 3: warped samba

My version of a classic samba groove.

First, I quantified the crushed-middle-sixteenths aspect that defines the samba feel, then I warped the tempo 15% faster on beat 3 and 10% slower on beat 4.

In this case, since the middle sixteenth notes are only moved inwards by 3% of a beat, I elected to represent the feel graphically rather than use the technically-more-precise version included below.

Dr. $\text{♩} = 100$ (Crush the middle sixteenths) $\text{♩} = 117.65$ $\text{♩} = 90.9$

Perc. Tambourine, played with sticks

Perc. Bell pattern (fades in on second repeat)

The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The tempo starts at 100 BPM. Above the first measure, there are four groups of notes with a bracket and the number '5' underneath, indicating a quintuplet of middle sixteenth notes. The tempo changes to 117.65 BPM for the second measure and 90.9 BPM for the third and fourth measures. The percussion parts include a tambourine and a bell pattern.

Technically precise representation of my samba groove (middle sixteenth notes moved in by 3% of a beat):

Dr. $\text{♩} = 100$ $\text{♩} = 117.65$ $\text{♩} = 90.9$

This score is a technically precise representation of the groove above. It uses the same tempo changes (100, 117.65, and 90.9 BPM) and graphical notation for the quintuplets of middle sixteenth notes. The notes are placed on a grid to show the exact timing of the 'crushed' middle sixteenth notes.

microgroove 4: stretched 7

An exercise in beat stretching: the fourth eighth note in measure one is slowed by 30%, and the first two eighth notes in measure two are slowed by 15%, which means that both measures should last the same amount of time!

Dr. $\text{♩} = 190$ $\text{♩} = 146$ $\text{♩} = 190$ $\text{♩} = 165$ $\text{♩} = 190$

Perc. Hi-hat and snare

Perc. Tambourine

The score is in 7/8 time and consists of four measures. The tempo starts at 190 BPM. Above the first measure, there are four groups of notes with a bracket and the number '5' underneath, indicating a quintuplet of eighth notes. The tempo changes to 146 BPM for the second measure, 190 BPM for the third measure, 165 BPM for the fourth measure, and 190 BPM for the fifth measure. The percussion parts include hi-hat and snare, and a tambourine.