

# Djembe rhythms

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This document is a supplement to the video's on <http://www.rocherouge.fr/djembe>

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## Explanations :

to tone  
ta slap  
tou bass  
flam a subdued sound, place one hand on the bass and slap with the other hand  
fla slap with both hands (one hand slaps a fraction later than the other)  
d d=right  
g g=left  
**bold** the basic rhythm is indicated in courier new bold, an example: the rhythm patapetipa is a binary rhythm. After the call (the appel) you start first with a 'ta' (fra: 'rentrer') with your right hand, followed by the basic rhythm that can be repeated several times: tatatotota, exit (fra: 'sortir') with tata. In this case it would be:

binary call (appel binaire)

ta **tatatotota** tatatotota tatatotota tatatotota tata  
d **d g d g d** d g d g d d g d g d d g d g d d g

binary call (appel binaire)

## The call (appel)

A call (appel) is used to notify the players you intend to start, change or stop the rhythm. A call (appel) announces a binary or a ternary rhythm.

### **Binary call (appel binaire)**

tré pété té pété tété  
fla toto to toto toto  
dg d g d g d g d

### **Ternary call (appel ternaire) I**

tra pata pata pata  
fla toto toto toto  
dg d g d g d g

### **Ternary call (appel ternaire) II**

pèteketètètè tètètè  
d g d g d g d g d

**Tip:** As a beginner you need only to be able to play the basic ternary and binary accompaniments. A basic binary accompaniment is patapetipa, a basic ternary accompaniment is papita. All ternary rhythms can be combined with ternary rhythms and all binary rhythms can be combined with binary rhythms. So if you think you lose your way in a group just play your basic accompaniment and you'll get back on the train again.

## Rhythms and accompaniments

Playing the djembe on your own is no fun, you need the group to play with. Every rhythm can be accompanied by other rhythms or accompaniments. An accompaniment is a rhythm specially designed to be played together with a rhythm or with other rhythms of the same sort (ternary or binary). For example: the rhythm djansa (binary) can be combined with the accompaniment patapetipa or the rhythm fankani and the rhythm tiriba (ternary) can be combined with the specific accompaniment or with a basic ternary accompaniment like soko. Every djembéplayer should master the basic accompaniments:

**papita** (ternary)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**tatota** tatota tatota tatota tatota

**d d g** d d g d d g d d g d d g

or

**d g d** d g d d g d d g d d g d

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**soko** (ternary)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ta **tatotota** tatotota tatotota tatotota tatotota tata

d **d g d g** d g d g d g d g d g d g d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**patapetipa** (binary)

binary call (appel binaire)

ta **tatatotota** tatatotota tatatotota tatatotota tatatotota tata

d **d g d g d** d g d g d d g d g d d g d g d d g

or

d **d g g d g** d g g d g d g g d g d g g d g d g

binary call (appel binaire)



**badougou**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

toutatostatoutatota (4x) toutatostatou  
d g d g d g d g      d g d g d  
exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

flo fla tou tou  
dg dg d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ta **tatotota tato** (4x) tatotota  
d d g d g d g      d g d g  
start                      exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**balla**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

tata.tototá toutatou (4x)  
d g d g d d g d

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**accomp**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

totototata **tatotostatou** (4x)  
g d g d g d g d g d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**Break PR** (rhythm designed by Philippe Roussel)

**call (appel)**

tatoto.tatoto.ta.tata...toutou.tatatoutou  
d g d g d g d d g d g d g d g

2x

**warming up:**

**tototatatatatatatata** tototatatatatatatata etcetera  
d g d g d g d g d g d g d g d g d g d g d g

toutatatoutatatoutatata.tou.tou.tou  
d d g d d g d g d g d g d g d  
toutatatoutatatoutatata.tou.tou.tou  
d d g d d g d g d g d g d g d

tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tou.tou  
d d g d g d g d d g d g d g d d g d g d g d g d  
tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tatata.tatata..tou.tou.tou  
d d g d g d g d d g d g d g d d g d g d g d g d

.tatata  
..toutoutoutoutou  
...tatata  
..toutoutoutoutou  
...tou.tata.tata.tou.tatata

**binary call (appel binaire)**  
followed by yankadi and accompaniment

**clac poum pede**

binary call (appel binaire)

toutoto..tátoutoto..tátoutoto..tátoutoto..tátoutoto..tá  
g d g d g d g d  
start exit (sortir)

binary call (appel binaire)

**dennadon**

binary call (appel binaire)

ta toutoto **tata toutoto** (4x) tata  
d g d d d g g d d d g  
start exit (sortir)

binary call (appel binaire)

**didadi**

(appel)fla.toto fla.toto flaf-la-fla.toto

**tatata.tototoutou** **tatata.toto** (4x) tatata.tototou  
d g d d g d g d g d d g d g d d g d  
exit (sortir)

(appel)fla.toto fla.toto flaf-la-fla.toto

accompagnement

**tatototá.toto** **tatototátoutototou**  
d g d g d g d g d g d g d g  
or g d g d

**djansa**

binary call (appel binaire)

**.tata toutatatou** **tatatotatatou** (4x) tata toutatatou tatatototata  
d g g d g d d g d g d g d d g g d g d d g d g d g  
exit (sortir)

binary call (appel binaire)

Remarks:

To be able to accelerate replace the first tou (left) with ta or skip the first tou completely and in stead count:

tata . tatatou **tatatotatatou**  
d g \_ d g d d g d g d g d

**fankanie**

binary call (appel binaire)

tou **tatatouta tototatatouta** (4x) tatatouta tototatatou  
d g d d d g d g d d d g d d d g d g d

start exit (sortir)

binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp1**

binary call (appel binaire)

ta.ta tototou totou  
d g d g d d g

binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp2**

binary call (appel binaire)

ta tata totota|toutoutou tatata  
d d g d g d |d g d d g d  
patapetipa |

binary call (appel binaire)

**grand appel**

binary call (appel binaire)

tatata tototo tatata tou  
d g d d g d d g d d

tatata tototo toutou toutou!  
d g d d g d d g g d

tatata tototo tatata tou  
d g d d g d d g d d

tatata tototo touto toto touto toto touto  
d g d d g d d g d g d g d g d g

kuku tatotota toto 6x fla  
d g d g d g

patapetipa ta tata toto ta tata 5x  
d d g d g d d g

binary call (appel binaire)

**jagb**

ternary call (appel ternaire) >pété

tatou **tata.toto.tatata toutatou.tata.toutou**  
d g d g d g d g d g d g d g

start

exit idem

ternary call (appel ternaire) >pété

**koredouga**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**tatoutotatouta fla** tatoutotatouta fla tatoutotatouta fla fla (tou/ta)  
d g d g d g gd d g d g d g gd d g d g d g gd

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**kuku**

binary call (appel binaire)

tatotota.toto 6x

d g d g d g

exit idem

binary call (appel binaire)

**maraca**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

tatoto.toutatouta

d g d d d g g

exit idem

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**maracadon** (in fact soli)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

toutatototo.tatoutatou 4x toutatototo.tatou

d d d g d d g g d d d d g d d g

exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**accomp**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

totota totota tototato

d g d g d g d g d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation1**

pèteketè.pèteketè.pèteketètè

d g g d d g g d d g g d g

**variation2**

trépépépépépé or pèteketètètè.tètètè

dg d g d g d g d g d g d g d

**variation3**

totata.totata.totatatá

d g g d g g d g g dv

**variation4**

tatatatatatatatatá ou tototototototototó

d g d g d g d g d g

**papita**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ta . totá

d d g

d g d

exit idem

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ta . totá tatototá

d d g d g d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**patapetipa**

binary call (appel binaire)

ta tata . toto . ta 5x tata

d d g d g d d g

or

d d g g d g d g

start exit (sortir):

binary call (appel binaire)



**serie**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

tou **tototo.toto.tá tototo.toutou** tototo.toto.tá tototo.tou  
g d g d d g d d g d g d d g d d g d d g d g

start exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**accomp 1:**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

ta **tatata.totatata** 4x tatata.totata  
g d g d g d g d d g d g d g

start exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**accomp 2:**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**toutototou.tá** 5x

g d d g d

or d g g d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**accomp 3:**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**clac poum pédé**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**break:**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**totá.totá totatota.tototatata** 3x  
d d g g d g d g d g d g d

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation 1:**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

tou **tatato.tatato.tatata tototo.toutou** tatato.tatato.tatata tototo.tou  
g d g d g d g d g d d g d g d d g d g d g d g d d g d g

start exit (sortir)

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation 2 :**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**tatata tototoutou tatata toto**  
d g d d g d g d g d d g

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**variation 3:**

tou tototo.toto.tá tototo.toutou tototo.toto.tá tototo.tou  
g d g d d g d d g d g d d g d d g d d g d g  
totá.totá totatota.tototatata  
d d g g d g d g d g d g d  
tou tototo.toto.tá tototo.toutou tototo.toto.tá tototo.tou  
g d g d d g d d g d g d d g d d g d d g d g  
etcetera

**sika**

binary call (appel binaire)

tá.toto

d d g

tá.tototou

d d g d

tá.toto

d d g

tatoutoutatatou

g d g d g d

exit idem

binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp 1:**

binary call (appel binaire)

ta tototata ta tototata

g d g d g d d g d g

binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp 2:**

binary call (appel binaire)

tatoto.tou.tatou

d g d d d g

binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp 3\*:**

binary call (appel binaire)

toto.tatouta

d g g d g

binary call (appel binaire)

\* Enter at the first tou of the third sika rhythm:

1) tá.toto tá.tototou tá.toto tatoutoutatatou

2) tá.toto tá.tototou tá.toto tatoutoutatatou

3) tá.toto tá.tototou**variation on accomp3**

binary call (appel binaire)

toto.tatoutouta

d g g d g d

binary call (appel binaire)

**variation on accomp3**

binary call (appel binaire)

toto.tatoutota

d g g d g d

binary call (appel binaire)

**sofa**

binary call (appel binaire)

tototata tátoto tatouta

d g d g d d g g d d

exit idem

binary call (appel binaire)

**soko**

ternary call (appel ternaire)

tatotota

d g d g

exit idem

ternary call (appel ternaire)

**soli** (see also maracadon)  
appel binaire  
toutoto tatoto touta.tá  
d d g d g d d g d  
exit idem  
appel binaire

**tiriba**  
ternary call (appel ternaire)  
toutatota touta.tota  
d g d g d g d g  
exit idem  
ternary call (appel ternaire)

**tip:** left hand only slaps, right hand only bass and tones, so sound variation is created with the right hand.

**accomp**  
tatototata tatototata tatototata  
d g d g d d g d g d d g d g d d g d g d

**yankadi**  
binary call (appel binaire)  
tou tatatoutoto tou ta toutoto  
d d g d d g d d d g d  
exit idem  
binary call (appel binaire)

**accomp**  
binary call (appel binaire)  
flam.toto flafila.tata  
dg d g dg dg d g  
binary call (appel binaire)

**Remark:** flam: in this case you slap 'ta' with your right and a fraction later 'tou' with your left hand.