

Lesson.

The Bossa Nova Rhythm

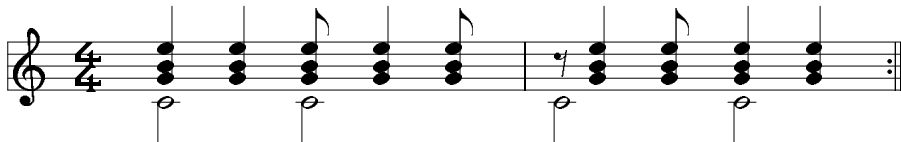
Many people have trouble with this simple attractive style, here is my simple approach. The easy way to approach this rhythm is to play minims with your thumb, lets start there;

beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4



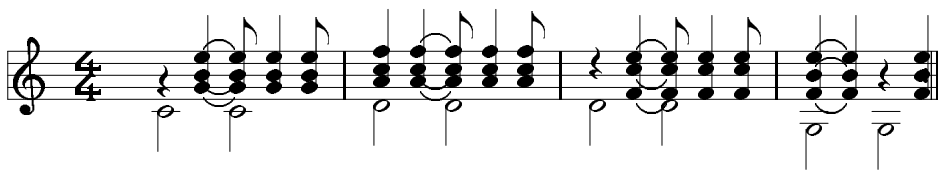
Now add the syncopated chords on top;

beats: 1 2 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 4



Once the chords are in place it all fits together and should be played in an almost lazy, smooth style.

Of course the type of chords add to the 'Bossa' feel. Try making some of the major chords major 7th's and the minor, minor 9ths;



Cmaj7

Dm7

Dm9

G13

Notice the slightly altered rhythm pattern. As long as the thumb stays on minims it will hold itself together.

Practice lots of latin songs, Bossa Novas, Beguines and Rhumbas. And listen a lot. It's very much a 'feel' thing.