



Mel Bay The Tomás Cruz Conga Method, Vol. I: Conga Technique As Taught In Cuba (Book & DVD)

By Tomas Cruz, Kevin Moore, Mike Gerald, Orlando Fiol

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In Volume I, Tomasito reveals the time-tested conga method which he himself studied with "Changuito" and other master congueros at the ENA conservatory in Havana. Volume I starts at the absolute beginning and is designed for the person who has never touched the congas, but is also of great value to the advanced player who wishes to understand the foundation and rudiments of the approach that has allowed the ENA and the other Havana conservatories to consistently turn out so many world class congueros each year.

Volume I begins with simple exercises to develop technique and systematically works its way through rudiments and "recursos" for use in solos and fills and basic rhythm patterns such as Salsa, Cha-Cha and Bolero. These are presented using the unique Step by Step DVD Method, which enables the student to learn the patterns by watching the DVD and imitating Tomasito as he builds the patterns stroke by stroke. This, combined with a special type of notation designed to be simple for those who don't read music, results in a conga course that really works, rather than just another reference book to add to the bookshelf!

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- Sales Rank: #927924 in Books
- Published on: 2004-03
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .27" h x 8.78" w x 11.66" l, .50 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 72 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Tomas "Tomasito" Cruz was born and raised in Cuba in the middle of the musical revolution of the 90's. By the time he relocated to Miami he had become one of the top congueros in Cuba, playing in what most Cuban music experts consider one of the two or three best Timba bands ever assembled, the 1997-98 incarnation of Paulito FG y su Elite which recorded the groundbreaking CD, "Con la conciencia tranquila". The creativity and drive Tomasito's conga tumbaos on that album put him in the very upper echelon of the most competitive Latin music scene in the world. Similarly, it took Tomasito very little time to rise to the top of the Miami Latin music scene, playing with Manolin, el Medico de la Salsa, Willie Chirino, Celia Cruz, and many others. He also has a thorough mastery of bongo, Bata, and a deep understanding of Cuban music as a whole. In short, when we set out to write a book explaining the mysteries of Cuban conga playing, Tomasito was our first choice by a considerable margin.

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Eunice Buckley:

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