

Franco Luambo style practice sheet

The sebene over I IV V in C, thumb and index, no pick. Exercises in his style, not transcriptions.

How to read the tab: dots are the string lines and numbers are frets; only the strings used are shown. The top line counts eighth notes. **T** = thumb, **i** = index finger, **P** = pinch (thumb and index together). Standard tuning. Pluck free stroke: the finger plucks and comes away.

Shapes (key of C: I = C, IV = F, V = G)

Sixths, thumb on D, index on B: C = D5 + B5, F = D7 + B6, G = D9 + B8.

Thirds, thumb on G, index on B: C = G9 + B8, F = G10 + B10, G7 = G7 + B6.

Roots: C = A3, F = low E1, G = low E3.

Cadences: demi temps I IV I V, 2 temps I IV V IV V, 3 temps I V IV V, 4 temps I VII IV V.

Exercise 1: the thumb pulse

Roots on every beat. Say the chord names out loud.

```
      C          F          C          G
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
D|.....|.....|.....|.....|
A|3.....3.....|3.....3.....|
E|.....1.....1.....|.....3.....3.....|
T      T      T      T      T      T      T      T
```

Exercise 2: pinched sixths on the beat

Keep the G string silent between thumb and index.

```
      C          F          C          G
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
e|.....|.....|.....|.....|
B|5.....5.....6.....6.....|5.....5.....8.....8.....|
G|.....|.....|.....|.....|
D|5.....5.....7.....7.....|5.....5.....9.....9.....|
P      P      P      P      P      P      P      P
```

Exercise 3: split the sixths (the call)

Thumb on the beat, index on the and. The key exercise.

```
      C          F          C          G
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
e|.....|.....|.....|.....|
B|...5....5....6....6....|...5....5....8....8....|
G|.....|.....|.....|.....|
D|5.....5.....7.....7.....|5.....5.....9.....9.....|
T i T i T i T i T i T i T i T i
```

Exercise 4: thirds, 3 3 2 accent

Pinch on 1, the and of 2, and 4. One chord per bar.

```
      C          F
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
e|.....|.....|.....|.....|
B|8.....8.....8.....|10.....10.....10.....|
G|9.....9.....9.....|10.....10.....10.....|
D|.....|.....|.....|.....|
P      P      P      P      P      P      P
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
e|.....|.....|.....|.....|
B|8.....8.....8.....|6.....6.....6.....|
G|9.....9.....9.....|7.....7.....7.....|
D|.....|.....|.....|.....|
P      P      P      P      P      P      P
```

Exercise 5: the answer

Hits on 1, and of 2, 3, and of 4.

```
      C          F          C          G7
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &
e|.....|.....|.....|.....|
B|8.....8.....10.....10.....|8.....8.....6.....6....|
G|9.....9.....10.....10.....|9.....9.....7.....7....|
D|.....|.....|.....|.....|
P      P      P      P      P      P      P      P
```

Exercise 6: the full loop

Two bars of Exercise 3 (call), then the two answer bars of Exercise 5.

Loop all four. Then try 2 temps: C F G F with the same shapes.

```
| C F | C G | C F | C G7 |
| call | call | answer | answer |
```

Tempo log

Date	Exercise	bpm	Clean? (yes or no)	Note

Tips

1. Start slow. 60 to 70 bpm, click on each beat. Speed up only when every bar is clean and relaxed.

2. Listen first. The records teach the feel better than any tab.

3. Look after your skin. No pick means your thumb and index take the wear. Keep sessions short, and stop if the skin gets sore.

Listen to

OK Jazz, On Entre O.K., On Sort K.O. (1956)
Franco and TPOK Jazz, Mario (1985)
Franco and TPOK Jazz, Bina Na Ngai Na Respect
Franco and TPOK Jazz, Ngungi
Franco and TPOK Jazz, Attention Na Sida (1987)