

NOTES FROM NETWORK OF SPARKS ALBUM ONE



The rhythmic structures of North and South India are amongst the most complex and difficult to understand of all rhythmic systems. However, when one delves a little deeper and looks at the form and structures, the mystification soon peels away.

The drums and percussion of India have a detailed set of phonetics which represent the sounds of the drums with the spoken word. These phonetics differ slightly from drum to drum and between the differing styles of North and South Indian music. We're going to look at the basics of South Indian rhythm, beginning with the five beat unit and its phonetics.

This unit is called 'KANDAM' and the syllables are thus;

TA KA TA KI TA

The lesson on the tape will look at this unit, pitching it against a repetitive time cycle and taking it through a number of rhythmic modulations.

Example of typical rhythmic modulation used towards the end of the frame drum vocalisation to create tension

This example is for recitation with a steady clapping pattern

ta ka ta ki ta

CLAP

WAVE

ta ka ta ki ta

ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta

ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta

ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta

ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta

ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta ta ka ta ki ta

See audio file 'rhythmic device 2' which accompanies this article.