

A Percussion Question:

By: David A. Sargent

Subject: I'm no percussionist...

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BSgSi78DvTQ/>

I don't get this beat. Is it an offbeat?! It doesn't sound like jungle music to me. But I don't have a clue.

Sargent Answers: That was just an elementary rhythm that has basic beat structure that has a rock beat that is hidden in what instruments are being played. There is no base drum being played so the base beat is employed with the cymbal and snare instead thereof.

It is a 4:4 beat with the count 1 on the first cymbal strike. The snare is playing an upbeat syncopated rhythm that can translate into a rock beat easily. For the basic rock beat see my Bible Study on "Music – Syncopation" The rhythm in that lesson can be played right along with this lady playing her cymbal and snare. The rock beat incorporates the closed hi-hat cymbals on the top line, the next line is the snare and lower line is the base. Keep in mind that this is a basic rock beat. They can be much more complicated than this. Her version of the rock beat is a free form without a base.

What she is playing:																																
Count:	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Cymbal:	♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪	
Snare:		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪		♪
Basic Rock Beat:																																
Count:	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
Cymbal:	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪
Snare:			♪			♪		♪			♪			♪		♪			♪			♪		♪			♪			♪		♪
Base:	♪	♪		♪	♪				♪	♪		♪	♪				♪	♪		♪	♪				♪	♪		♪	♪			

This is the basic rock beat that she is playing. It does not sound like it because of the instruments used to play this sort of beat. It is an illusion of sorts...