

Instrumentation

The 'kit'

The kick drum should be shared, and fitted with a pedal beater on each side. The heads of the kick drum should be regular kick drumheads; ie, a beater head on one side and a resonant head on the other. The beater head should be punchy and staccato, while the resonant head should have a longer decay. The beater head should be played by Percussion 1, and the resonant head played by Percussion 2.

The bongos should also be shared. Ideally, a single bongo set should be mounted on a stand pipe that will clamp into the kick drum's rack mount fitting, with Percussion 1 playing the high bongo from one side and Percussion 2 playing the low bongo from the other. The bongos should be tuned a minor 3rd apart.

On the traps table

Each performer should have a metal pipe, a woodblock, an upturned small cymbal, and a small piece of scrap tin or sheet metal.

The metal pipe can be either resonant bell–like aluminium, or rusty industrial iron; so long as it is loud, rather harsh, distinctly metallic, and has a definite pitch. The pitches should be chosen to fit in with this schema:

P1 m3 P5 m7 low bongo high bongo low pipe high pipe

(The pipes may sound better if displaced to the octave above the bongos.)

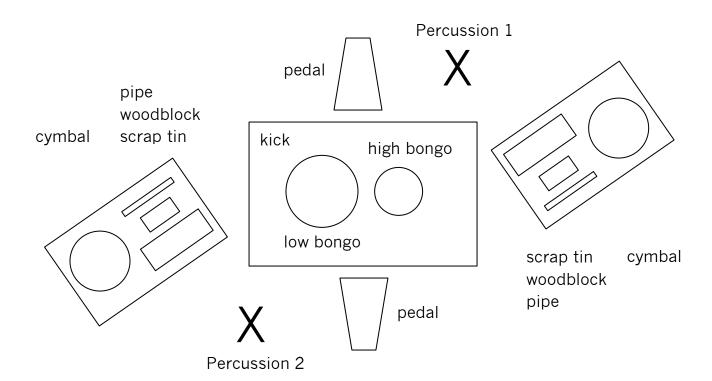
Woodblocks can be treated as either pitched or unpitched, according to performer tastes. If treated as pitched, the woodblocks should be a minor 3rd apart, and be the same pitches as the pipes, or the same pitches as the bongos.

The cymbals can be small china cymbals, upturned and balanced on foam so they are not muted, allowing for a few seconds of hissing decay after being struck.

The scrap tin could be a single small square of roofing tin (or similar material), or be a sandwich of a couple of pieces. In workshops of the piece, performers hit the flat of metal music stands, which gave a very satisfying crack. Experiment to see which gives the best, sound while allowing for clarity of the rhythmic intent.

The best mallets to use for this piece seem to be glockenspiel mallets wrapped with a very thin layer of adhesive moleskin.

Setup



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Percussion Key

