

When you see the four quarter-note kick drums in the verse of this transcription, don't get upset. "Jab'o" isn't going Disco. He's just trying to lock in with "Bootsy" Collins' quarter-note bass figure. The seven-month-old collaboration of these two radically different musical personalities was beginning to pay musical dividends to both parties. The maturity and restraint of "Jab'o's" verse groove helped "Bootsy" find structure and balance in his playing. Conversely, as you can tell by the fact that "Jab'o" doesn't play any two bars alike in the bridge, "Bootsy's" wild ways were also beginning to rub off on him. The constantly mutating combinations of eighth and sixteenth-note hi-hat groupings, displaced and standard backbeat

snare, and punctuating kick drum patterns is much more improvisational and daring than anything we've seen from "Jab'o" up to this point.

This performance was united by an overriding philosophy and approach rather than a specific and repetitive setup of notes. Grooves like this come from a much more instinctive and comfortable place than the intimidating preponderance of black ink you see in the transcriptions. As "Jab'o" explains, "James Brown's music was all about vamps. You just grooved with a good vamp, and there were so many things you could do within it. Once you started to play, the feel just took over." ♦

VERSE (♩ = 100)

Play 4 times

The Verse section consists of a single staff of music in 4/4 time. It begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The notation shows a sequence of quarter-note kick drum patterns: a quarter note on the first beat, a quarter note on the second beat, a quarter note on the third beat, and a quarter note on the fourth beat. This pattern is repeated four times. The notation includes 'x' marks above the notes to indicate the drum sound. The section ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

BRIDGE

The Bridge section consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time. Each staff shows a different drum pattern. The notation includes various accents (circles with a greater-than sign) and dynamics (plus signs) to indicate the feel of the playing. The patterns are more complex than the Verse, involving eighth and sixteenth notes. The section ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by the text "Back to Verse".