

# Walter Rodrigues Jr.

## Bossa Nova Patterns and Variations

In this lesson, I will cover some important aspects of the Bossa Nova style, that can many times be missed or overlooked. Starting with a very brief history, Bossa Nova, a Brazilian musical genre, started in the late 1950's in Rio de Janeiro. Although many musicians contributed to the popularity of the new style, the two names that quickly come to many people's minds are composer Antonio Carlos Jobim, and the voice and violão (classical guitar) of João Gilberto. The word "bossa" in Portuguese, is a slang for natural flair, talent or charm. In order to get into the core of the authentic groove (meaning, play with "bossa"), we must first understand that the Bossa Nova feel is directly connected to Samba. Although we often see Bossa tunes written in 4/4, the feel is really 2/4 (I'll get into a more detailed explanation on that in the video). Also, we must keep in mind, that the lyrics of Bossa Nova songs, mainly portrays love, romance, sadness and beauty. Therefore, it's imperative that we incorporate all of the above qualities into our playing. I once heard a precious tip from the great Jazz guitarist Joe Diorio, who said: "Everyone should learn the lyrics of a song before they can play it"!

Although Bossa Nova can offer a virtually unlimited combination of patterns, the following 7 examples, when properly combined, can create an authentic Bossa groove. Make sure to watch the video segment to get the most out of this lesson.



<https://walterrodriguesjr.com/>

# BOSSA NOVA PATTERNS AND VARIATIONS

**Ex. 1** D maj9 B<sup>b</sup>dim A m7 D 7(♭9) G maj7

T A B

**Ex. 2** D maj9 B<sup>b</sup>dim A m7 D 7(♭9) G maj7

**Ex. 3** D maj9 B<sup>b</sup>dim A m7 D 7(♭9) G maj7

**Ex. 4** D maj9 B<sup>b</sup>dim A m7 D 7(♭9) G maj7

**Ex. 5** D maj9 B<sup>b</sup>dim A m7 D 7(♭9) G maj7

**Ex. 6**

Dmaj9      B $\flat$ dim      Am7      D7(b9)      Gmaj7

5 5 5    5 5 5    5 5 5    4 4 4    3 3 3  
6 6 6    5 5 5    5 5 5    4 5 5    4 4 4  
4 4 4    5 5 5    5 5 5    4 4 4    4 4 4  
5         6         5         5         3  
(5)       (6)       (5)       (5)       (3)

[illegible]

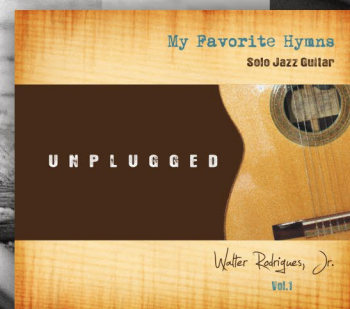
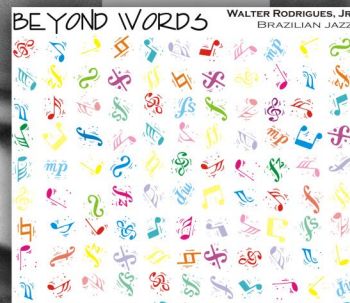
*Notes with an "X" should be slapped with right hand*

*Notes in parenthesis are "ghost notes"*

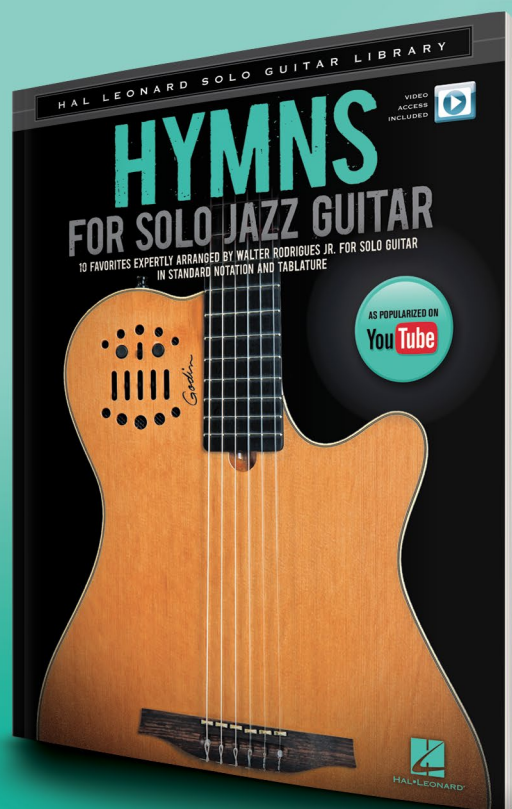
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