

# Tham, Thangu, Din and Din Thangu

Konnakol, the Carnatic rhythmic language, has its own grammar and phrasing. We've covered Tha Din Gi Na Thom and how that single phrases morphs into groupings of 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9; and explored the rhythmic building blocks, which include Ta Ka, Ta Ki Ta and so on, that when strung together, form larger rhythmic cells. This lesson moves onto to explore the gaps and exclamation points that create space, syncopation, tension and release in a phrase.

Tham = gap or space of two pulses  
Thangu = gap or space of three pulses  
Din = gap or space of four pulses  
Din Thangu (2+3) = gap or space of five pulses

Phrases that add Tham at the end of a phrase

Ta + Tham (1+2)

Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham Ta Tham

Ta Ka + Tham (2+2)

<sup>3</sup> Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham Ta Ka Tham

Ta Ki Ta + Tham (3+2)

<sup>5</sup> Ta Ki Ta Tham Ta Ki Ta Tham Ta Ki Ta Tham Ta Ki Ta Tham

Ta Ka Di Mi + Tham (4+2)

<sup>6</sup> Ta Ka Di Mi Tham Ta Ka Di Mi Tham Ta Ka Di Mi Tham Ta Ka Di Mi Tham

Ta Dhin Gi Na Thom + Tham (5+2)

<sup>7</sup> Ta Dhin Gi Na Thom Tham Ta Dhin Gi Na Thom Tham Ta Dhin Gi Na Thom Tham Ta Dhin Gi Na Thom Tham

Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Tham (6+2)

8 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Tham (6+2)'. It consists of two measures of music in 4/4 time. The first measure contains six eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Tham. The second measure contains two eighth notes: Tha, Din, followed by a four-measure rest, then two eighth notes: Gi, Na, Thom, Tham.

Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Tham (7+2)

9 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Tham (7+2)'. It consists of two measures of music in 3/8 time. The first measure contains seven eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Tham, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure contains two eighth notes: Tha, Din, followed by a four-measure rest, then two eighth notes: Gi, Na, Thom, Tham.

Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Tham (8+2)

10 Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Tham

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Tham (8+2)'. It consists of two measures of music in 10/8 time. The first measure contains eight eighth notes: Tha, Thom, Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Tham. The second measure contains two eighth notes: Tha, Thom, followed by a four-measure rest, then two eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Tham.

Phrases that add Thongu at the end of a phrase

Ta + Thongu (1+3)

11 Ta Thongu Ta Thongu Ta Thongu Ta Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta + Thongu (1+3)'. It consists of four measures of music in 3/8 time. Each measure contains one eighth note (Ta) followed by a quarter note (Thongu).

Ta Ka + Thongu (2+3)

12 Ta Ka Thongu Ta Ka Thongu Ta Ka Thongu Ta Ka Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta Ka + Thongu (2+3)'. It consists of four measures of music in 10/8 time. Each measure contains two eighth notes (Ta, Ka) followed by a quarter note (Thongu).

Ta Ki Ta + Thongu (3+3)

13 Ta Ki Ta Thongu Ta Ki Ta Thongu Ta Ki Ta Thongu Ta Ki Ta Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta Ki Ta + Thongu (3+3)'. It consists of four measures of music in 12/8 time. Each measure contains three eighth notes (Ta, Ki, Ta) followed by a quarter note (Thongu).

Ta Ka Di Mi + Thongu (4+3)

14 Ta Ka Di Mi Thongu Ta Ka Di Mi Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta Ka Di Mi + Thongu (4+3)'. It consists of two measures in 7/8 time. The first measure contains four eighth notes: Ta, Ka, Di, Mi. The second measure contains three eighth notes: Thongu, followed by a dotted quarter note. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Thongu (5+3)

15 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Thongu (5+3)'. It consists of two measures in 8/8 time. The first measure contains five eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom. The second measure contains three eighth notes: Thongu, followed by a dotted quarter note. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Thongu (6+3)

16 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Thongu (6+3)'. It consists of two measures in 9/8 time. The first measure contains six eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Thongu. The second measure contains three eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, followed by a dotted quarter note. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Thongu (7+3)

17 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Thongu (7+3)'. It consists of two measures in 10/8 time. The first measure contains seven eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Thongu, followed by a dotted quarter note. The second measure contains three eighth notes: Tha, Din, Gi, followed by a dotted quarter note. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Thongu (8+3)

18 Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Thongu

Musical notation for the phrase 'Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Thongu (8+3)'. It consists of two measures in 11/8 time. The first measure contains eight eighth notes: Tha, Thom, Tha, Din, Gi, Na, Thom, Thongu. The second measure contains three eighth notes: Tha, Thom, Tha, followed by a dotted quarter note. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Phrases that add Din at the end of a phrase

Ta + Din (1+4)

19 Ta Din Ta Din Ta Din Ta Din

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta + Din (1+4)'. It consists of four measures in 10/8 time. Each measure contains a quarter note followed by four eighth notes. The notes are: Ta, Din, Ta, Din, Ta, Din, Ta, Din. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Ta Ka + Din (2+4)

20 Ta Ka Din Ta Ka Din Ta Ka Din Ta Ka Din

Musical notation for the phrase 'Ta Ka + Din (2+4)'. It consists of four measures in 12/8 time. Each measure contains two eighth notes followed by four eighth notes. The notes are: Ta, Ka, Din, Ta, Ka, Din, Ta, Ka, Din, Ta, Ka, Din. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Ta Ki Ta + Din (3+4)

21 Ta Ki Ta Din Ta Ki Ta Din Ta Ki Ta Din Ta Ki Ta Din

Ta Ka Di Mi + Din (4+4)

22 Ta Ka Di Mi Din Ta Ka Di Mi Din Ta Ka Di Mi Din Ta Ka Di Mi Din

Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Din (5+4)

23 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din

Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Din (6+4)

24 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din

Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Din (7+4)

25 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din

Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom (8+4)

26 Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Tha Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din

Phrases that add Din Thongu at the end of a phrase

Ta + Din Thongu (1+5)

27 Ta Din Thongu Ta Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 27, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with a quarter note 'Ta' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 6/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Ta Ka + Din Thongu (2+5)

28 Ta Ka Din Thongu Ta Ka Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 28, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with two eighth notes 'Ta Ka' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 7/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Ta Ki Ta + Din Thongu (3+5)

29 Ta Ki Ta Din Thongu Ta Ki Ta Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 29, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with three eighth notes 'Ta Ki Ta' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 8/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Ta Ka Di Mi + Din Thong (4+5)

30 Ta Ka Di Mi Din Thongu Ta Ka Di Mi Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 30, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with four eighth notes 'Ta Ka Di Mi' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 9/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Din Thongu (5+5)

31 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 31, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with five eighth notes 'Tha Din Gi Na Thom' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 10/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Tha Din - Gi Na Thom + Din Thongu (6+5)

32 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 32, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with six eighth notes 'Tha Din Gi Na Thom' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 11/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Tha - Din - Gi Na Thom + Din Thongu (7+5)

33 Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 33, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with seven eighth notes 'Tha Din Gi Na Thom' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 12/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Tha Thom - Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Din Thongu (8+5)

34 Ta Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu Ta Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom Din Thongu

Musical notation for measure 34, showing two phrases. Each phrase starts with eight eighth notes 'Ta Thom Tha Din Gi Na Thom' followed by a five-measure phrase 'Din Thongu' indicated by a bracket and a fermata. The first phrase is in 13/8 time, and the second is in 3/4 time.

Exercises:

1) Play each phrase 4 times, then move on to the next phrase. For example, Ta + Tham, Ta + Tham, Ta + Tham, Ta + Tham; Taka + Tham, Taka + Tham, Taka + Tham, Taka + Tham, etc. Play along with a metronome but don't be concerned with playing within a time signature.

Play phrases or melodies following each rhythmic cell. Harmonic players can also play static chords or create a chord patterns to play through each rhythmic cell.

2) Play through a blues progression using specific rhythmic cells. For example Tha Din Gi Na Thom + Din Thongu through the whole 12 bars. Use melodic and harmonic structures.

3) Play through a blues progressions using two different rhythmic cells. For example Takadimi + Thongu and Takita + Tham. Experiment with alternating between the two phrases, playing each phrase twice then alternating, etc. Aim to freely move between each phrase while avoiding playing one phrase more than three times in a row.