

CLAVE CONCEPTS - PART 1

BRIAN LYNCH

FIG. 1



CLAVE: A FIVE-NOTE, 81-MEASURE PATTERN WHICH SERVES AS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL OF THE RHYTHMIC STYLES IN SALSA MUSIC. THE CLAVE CONSISTS OF A "STRONG" MEASURE CONTAINING THREE NOTES (ALSO CALLED THE TRESILLO), AND A "WEAK" MEASURE CONTAINING TWO NOTES, RESULTING IN PATTERNS BEGINNING WITH EITHER MEASURE, REFERRED TO AS "THREE-TWO" OR TWO-THREE." THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF CLAVE PATTERNS ASSOCIATED WITH POPULAR (SECULAR) MUSIC: SON CLAVE AND RUMBA CLAVE. ANOTHER TYPE OF CLAVE - 6/8 CLAVE - ORIGINATED IN SEVERAL STYLES OF WEST AFRICAN SACRED MUSIC. (FROM "SALSA GUIDEBOOK" BY REBECCA MAULEON)



FIG. 2 : RUMBA CLAVE



FIG. 3: A) 6/8 BELL PATTERN (SEVEN STROKE PATTERN)



B) REMOVAL OF TWO STROKES MAKES 6/8 CLAVE (EQUIVALENT OF RUMBA CLAVE)



FIG. 4: BREAK SHOWING BOMBO AND PONCHE WITH 2-3 CLAVE

FIG. 5: CASCARA PATTERN (3-2 CLAVE DIRECTION)



FIG. 6: A) BASIC CONGA MARCHA

B) TWO BAR MARCHA (2-3 DIRECTION) WITH TWO DRUMS



FIG. 7: A) BASS TUMBAO

B) PIANO OR TRES GUATEO (PLAYED IN OCTAVES)



FIG. 8: MELODY OF "SOLAR"



FIG. 9: MELODY OF "SOLAR" EN CLAVE

