

Preparatory Clave Exercises

Practice these exercises by clapping the clave while singing the top line.
Although the exercises are written in cut time, try playing them also in 4/4.

Son Clave 3-2

Sing

Clap

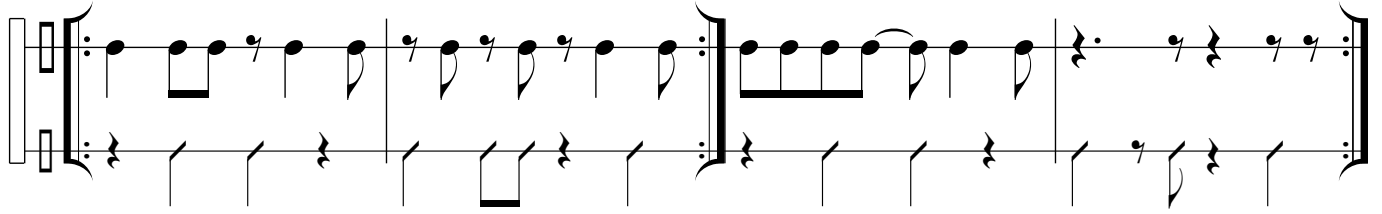
ta ta

ta ta ta ta etc.... ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka

ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ta

ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ta ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka

ka ka ka ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ta ka ka ka ka ka



Tumbao Exercises

The tumbao (bass line) generally anticipates the harmony consistently. It's one of the more difficult parts to feel.

Son Clave 3-2

Sing

Clap

(2-3 Clave)

Rumba Clave 3-2 >

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a melody with a 3-2 Rumba Clave pattern. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature, containing a bass line. Both staves are enclosed in a large bracket on the left and right sides. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>).

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, similar to the first system. The top staff continues the melody with a 3-2 Rumba Clave pattern, featuring several accented notes. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Both staves are enclosed in a large bracket on the left and right sides. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>).

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves, similar to the first system. The top staff continues the melody with a 3-2 Rumba Clave pattern, featuring several accented notes. The bottom staff continues the bass line. Both staves are enclosed in a large bracket on the left and right sides. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>).

(“Palito” pattern)

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains a melody with a “Palito” pattern. The bottom staff is a bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature, containing a bass line. Both staves are enclosed in a large bracket on the left and right sides. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>).

I IV V7 IV in C Major

1. Sing the rhythm.
2. Sing while clapping the clave.
3. Play the melody with the recording (I IV V7 IV in C major).
4. Change the pitches of the rhythm.
5. Transpose to other keys, and play along with the recording.

** These phrases were written in two measures rather than four measures for the sole purpose of this exercise.

2-3 Son Clave

C F G7 F Maj C Maj F G7 F C

The bass clef staff contains a sequence of notes: C4, F4, G4, F4, C4, F4, G4, F4, C4. Below it, a smaller staff shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and rests, corresponding to the notes above.

The first treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

The second treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

The third treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

The fourth treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

The fifth treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

The sixth treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a quarter note E4. It then has a double bar line with repeat dots, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3.

I IV V7 IV in F Major

2-3 Son Clave

4-Measure Phrase

F B \flat C7 B \flat F B \flat C B \flat F

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (F major) and a common time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff shows the chord progression: F, B \flat , C7, B \flat , F, B \flat , C, B \flat , F. The music is written in a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The score includes various musical notations such as accents (>), slurs, and ties. The first staff has a fermata over the final measure. The second staff has a fermata over the final measure. The third staff has a fermata over the final measure. The fourth staff has a fermata over the final measure. The fifth staff has a fermata over the final measure.

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I- IV- V7(alt) IV- in G Minor

Play each phrase as written (clapping clave). Then listen to the rhythm section on the last two measures of each 4-measure phrase. Fill using your own ideas. Then repeat.

2-3 Son Clave

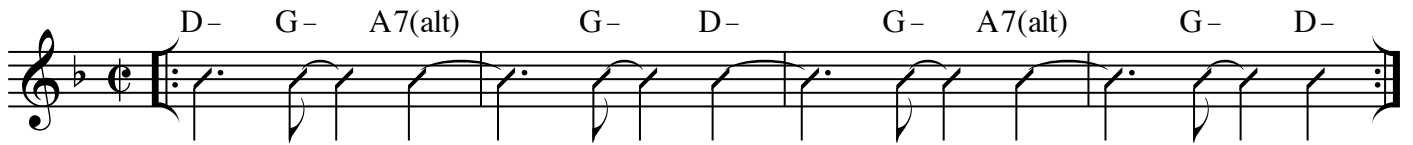
G- C- D7(alt) C- G- C- D7(alt) C- G-

I- IV- V7(alt) IV- in D Minor

Play each phrase as written (clapping clave). Then listen to the rhythm section on the last two measures of each 4-measure phrase. Fill using your own ideas. Then repeat.

2-3 Son Clave

D- G- A7(alt) G- D- G- A7(alt) G- D-



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). Chords are indicated above the notes: D- (D4), G- (G4), A7(alt) (A4, C#5, E5, G5), G- (G4), D- (D4), G- (G4), A7(alt) (A4, C#5, E5, G5), G- (G4), D- (D4).



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The last two measures are marked "Fill..." and contain diagonal lines.



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The last two measures are marked "Fill..." and contain diagonal lines. Accents (>) are placed over the notes G4 and A4 in the 10th and 11th measures.



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The last two measures are marked "Fill..." and contain diagonal lines.



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The last two measures are marked "Fill..." and contain diagonal lines.



A musical staff in D minor with a 2-3 son clave rhythm. The notes are: D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The last two measures are marked "Fill..." and contain diagonal lines. Accents (>) are placed over the notes G4 and A4 in the 10th and 11th measures.

II-7(b5) V7(b9) I in F Minor

3-2 Rumba Clave

Chord labels: G-7(b5), C7(b9), F-7

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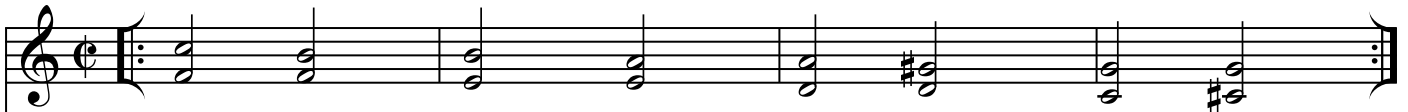
Tito-Tito

I first heard these changes in Tito Puente's arrangement of "Maria Cervantes" by Noro Morales.

When the harmony moves this fast, using one scale common to all the chords (A minor) makes the solo monotonous quickly—even more so if there is no rhythmic phrasing. One way to create melodic interest and to clearly outline the harmony is by anticipating the guide-tone lines (3rd and 7th of the chord) combined with phrases in clave.

Guide Tone

D-7 G7 CMaj7 FMaj7 B-7(b5) E7(b9) A-7 A7



Musical notation showing guide tones (3rd and 7th) for the chords: D-7, G7, CMaj7, FMaj7, B-7(b5), E7(b9), A-7, and A7. The notes are written on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time.

Anticipating Guide Tone

D-7 G7 CMaj7 FMaj7 B-7(b5) E7(b9) A-7 A7



Musical notation showing the guide tones for the chords, with the 3rd and 7th notes of each chord written as eighth notes that anticipate the chord change. The notes are written on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time.

Rhythm Figure (in Clave [2-3])



Musical notation showing a rhythmic figure in 4/4 time, corresponding to the 2-3 clave pattern. The notes are written on a treble clef staff.

Rhythmic Figure in Pitch

D-7 G7 CMaj7 FMaj7 B-7(b5) E7(b9) A-7



Musical notation showing the rhythmic figure from the previous section, but with the notes pitched to outline the guide tones of the chords: D-7, G7, CMaj7, FMaj7, B-7(b5), E7(b9), and A-7. The notes are written on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time.

