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# Rumba

The Cuban rumba comes from a folkloric dance tradition. There are three styles of rumba: *yambu*, *columbia*, and *guaguancó*. The *guaguancó* is the most popular of the three styles. We will look at it in the next chapter. For now, we will focus on the more traditional rumba, which is a bit slower than the *guaguancó*.

As we learned on page 15, the rumba has its own clave and it is usually in 3-2 form. Here it is to refresh your memory.

## Rumba Clave

25 

As you can see, this clave is more syncopated than the son clave. The rumba is a highly syncopated style of music that is not easily mastered. It takes a lot of listening and practicing to feel comfortable with this style. It's best to practice with your metronome or drum machine set to this 3-2 rumba clave. To the right are some rumba recordings and artists to check out.

### Suggested Listening

Somos Amigos—*Somos Amigos*  
(Camajan Records, 2002)

Eddie Palmieri—*Eddie Palmieri's Suert la Lengua*  
(Charly Records, 2006)

Rumbajazz—*Tribute to Chombo*  
(Sunnyside, 2000)

## Rumba Accompaniment

Below is an example of a rumba part played with octaves and arpeggios. Notice the slick voice leading, keeping

the 3rd of the C7 chord (E) as the 7th of the F Major chord (E).

26   
Track 24

$\text{♩} = 82$   
3-2 Rumba Clave  
C7



T	5	3	4	5	(5)	5	3	4	5	5	3	4	5	(5)	5	(5)
A		5				5				5					5	
B	7	5	6	7	(7)	5	6	7	7	5	6	7	(7)	5	7	(7)
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



# Songo Solo

Track 38

♩ = 90

2-3 Son Clave

C Major scale

HP

T 8 8 (8) 8-10-8 10-9-10 8-8 (8) 8 (8)-10 8 (8) 10 9 9 10 8

A

B

1 1 1 3 1 3 2 3 1 1 1 1 3 1 3 2 2 3 1

C F G C F G

T 9 8 8 8 10 10 10 12 12 12 9 8 8 8 10 10 10 12 12

A

B

2 1 1 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 3 3 3 3 3

5

HP HP

T 8 8-10-8 10-9-10 8-8 (8) 8-10-8 10-9 9 7 10

A

B

1 1 3 1 3 2 3 1 1 1 3 1 3 2 2 1 4

C F G C F E

T 9 8 8 8 10 10 12 12 12 9 8 8 8 10 10 10 9 9

A

B

2 1 1 1 3 3 3 3 3 3 2 1 1 1 3 3 3 3 3



# Merengue Solo

Track 72

♩ = 120

3-2 Clave

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-4. It includes a vocal line, guitar tablature for Treble (T), Middle (A), and Bass (B) staves, and a bass line. Chords D and A7 are indicated above the guitar staff.

Measures 1-4:  
 T: 14, 14-12-14-15, 14, 12-12-14  
 A: 3, 3 1 3 4 3, 1 3 1 3  
 B: 3, 4 (4) 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0, 3, 3, 3, 0

Musical score for the second system, measures 5-8. It includes a vocal line, guitar tablature for Treble (T), Middle (A), and Bass (B) staves, and a bass line. Chords A7 and D are indicated above the guitar staff. An 8va marking is present above the vocal line.

Measures 5-8:  
 T: 17, 15-14-12-14, 15, 14-12-15-14  
 A: 4, 4 3 1 3 4, 3 1 4 3  
 B: 3, 4 (4) 2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 0, 2, 2, 0, 3, 3, 3, 0