

# Improvising in Clave

Sponsored by Yamaha  
and Hal Leonard

Michael Philip Mossman

## Ex. 1: 3-2 melody (close fit)

Mambo ♩ = 180

Melody and clave: Line up here

Musical notation for Ex. 1, measures 1-4. Treble clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. Melody line and clave line are shown with vertical dashed lines indicating alignment. The melody starts with a quarter rest followed by eighth notes.

Clashes with clave here But resolves here in 2nd bar of 2-bar cell

Musical notation for Ex. 1, measures 5-8. Treble clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. Melody line and clave line are shown with vertical dashed lines indicating alignment. The melody continues with eighth and quarter notes.

Musical notation for Ex. 1, measures 9-12. Treble clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. Melody line and clave line are shown with vertical dashed lines indicating alignment. The melody concludes with a quarter rest.

## Ex 2: 2-3 melody (more tension w/clave)

Musical notation for Ex. 2, measures 13-17. Treble clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. Melody line and clave line are shown with vertical dashed lines indicating alignment. The melody features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. Labels "tension" and "release" are placed above the melody line.

Musical notation for Ex. 2, measures 18-21. Treble clef, 4/4 time, key of Bb. Melody line and clave line are shown with vertical dashed lines indicating alignment. The melody continues with eighth notes.

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(would have to be resolved in rhythm section arrangement here)

2  
22

22

## Ex 3: Line construction on simple progression

Mambo ♩ = 160

C-11

26

26

30

30

34

34

## Ex 4: Using common tones over 2-chord progression

F9

E<sup>b</sup>9

chord tones of F7 become upper structure notes in E<sup>b</sup>7

F9

E<sup>b</sup>9

36

36

tension release tension release

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40 F9 Eb9 F9 Eb9

## Ex 5: Cyclical patterns

parallel structures create both tension and symmetry

3-beat idea against 4-beat meter

44 F9 Eb9 F9 Eb9

"Floating" rhythms also create tension

48 F9 Eb9 F9 Eb9

52 F9 Eb9 F9 Eb9