

Clave & Groove Patterns

Music

The rhythmic cells that organise Latin, funk and African music.

Positions within two bars of 4/4, counted in eighth notes.

Pattern	Hits on	Found in
Son clave 3-2	1, 1&(a), 4 2, 3	Salsa, son, Latin jazz
Rumba clave 3-2	1, 1&(a), 4& 2, 3	Rumba, Afro-Cuban
Bossa clave	1, 1&(a), 4 2, 3&	Bossa nova
Tresillo	1, 1&(a), 4	Reggaeton, dancehall, trap
Straight backbeat	2, 4	Rock, pop, soul
Four on the floor	1, 2, 3, 4 (kick)	House, disco

Clave has a direction: 3-2 and 2-3 are the same cell reversed, and playing against it is immediately audible.