

As mentioned earlier, playing full chords on the tres is not very easy, and are thus usually arpeggiated as single notes or played, at most, two notes at a time. This gives us two clues as to how to outline a harmonic sequence at the piano in an authentic Afro-Cuban manner: play in octaves or fifteenthis, thereby imitating the double courses of the tres; and play the chords as arpeggios instead of striking each chord all at once (as one would do in jazz).

The following is an example of a typical piano figure imitating a tres player. We will analyze this example in Chapter 6, but for now, just take a quick look and listen to familiarize yourself.

As with many of the tracks on the CD, slight variation may occur on repeats, as a real salsa band would rarely play the exact same thing twice.

Typical piano figure

Although the piano substituted for the tres in most orchestras, today many prestigious bands in New York and Puerto Rico feature a tres player along with the piano, and the playing of the two is highly coordinated



TRACK 1

Clave

Piano

Bass

and effective. This is not the case in Cuba, where hardly any modern band uses the tres. Only a typical son montuno band would use the traditional instrument instead of the piano, not only for the sake of authenticity, but also for the simple reason that those groups are frequently on the move from one tavern to the next.



INCLUDES:

- **Comparative History**
- **Clave Patterns**
- **Authentic Rhythm-Section Techniques**
- **Harmony and Progressions**

Learn how to play authentic salsa music with this comprehensive book and CD package. From traditional Cuban music, to the more modern Puerto Rican and New York styles, you'll learn the all-important rhythmic patterns that provide a foundation for most of this music, and how they are applied to the piano. This book also provides some important and helpful historical, geographical, and cultural background information. The accompanying CD features 60 tracks, including piano examples as well as the full salsa band percussion section to help capture the true rhythmic flavor of the style.

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