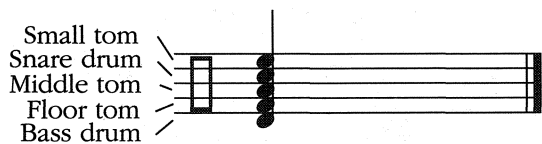


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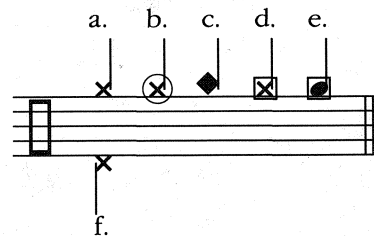
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KEY



Ⓜ/Ⓛ = rim shot

- a. Cymbal or hi-hat with hand
- b. Ride cymbal bell
- c. Cowbell
- d. Side of floor tom
- e. Side of timbales
- f. Hi-hat with foot



All other information not in the key can be found before each exercise. Optional notes are indicated by parentheses (). Words appearing in **bold print** can be found in this book's Glossary.

6/8 CLAVE PATTERN

It's essential to understand the importance of **clave** in Afro-Cuban music. Clave is a Spanish word meaning "key." The clave is the key to the rhythm being played, serving as a skeletal rhythmic figure around which the different drums and percussion instruments are played.

Any rhythmic figure can serve as a clave. We will be using what have become the most popular and important claves in African and Afro-Cuban music.

The clave rhythm is typically played on an instrument called **claves**, two round, solid pieces of wood which are struck one against the other. Clave figures can also be played by clapping your hands, hitting your drumsticks together, playing a cross stick on the snare drum or striking the side of the floor tom. Claves are used in Afro-Cuban folkloric and dance music, but are not usually played in Afro-Cuban 6/8 feels. We are playing the 6/8 clave only to show how it relates to the 6/8 cowbell pattern.

Exercise 1 6/8 clave counted in 6/8 time

Exercise 2 6/8 clave in 4/4 time, with triplets

Now play quarter-notes on the hi-hat with your foot along with the 6/8 clave figure, while counting eighth-note triplets.

Exercise 3 6/8 clave counted in 4/4 time, with hi-hat on quarter-notes

6/8 Cowbell pattern

The 6/8 cowbell pattern corresponding to the 6/8 clave sounds like this:

Exercise 4 6/8 Cowbell pattern with hi-hat on quarter notes

Playing quarter notes on the hi-hat helps lock in the bell pattern. Notice that this pattern is actually the clave figure with pickup notes before the third note and the first note of the clave pattern.

Again, the clave is *not* traditionally played in 6/8, we're only showing how the 6/8 clave relates to the 6/8 cowbell pattern.