

THE 9 CLAVE AS A ONE BAR PATTERN

Here we write the clave as one bar of 9/4 rather than a bar of 4/4 and a bar of 5/4.



THE 4 1/2 PULSE

As explained in "The clave" chapter the main pulse of clave is the half note. The same applies to the 9 clave. However, because of the uneven amount of quarter notes it cannot be divided equally into half notes. Hence the main pulse is four half notes and the last pulse is a quarter note. To emphasize the main pulses (half notes), the time signature will be written as 4 1/2 over 2, instead of 9/4.

To feel the main 4 1/2 pulse we count on every second quarter saying "and" on the final quarter note to bring us back to "one".



THE CLAVE AND THE PULSE

The clave strokes retain the qualities explained in "The Clave" chapter. However, now the last pulse lines up with the final stroke of the clave. This gives both the final pulse and the final stroke of the clave the quality of a pick up, or a leading stroke, bringing you back to the first stroke of the clave. This pick-up has a feeling that is similar to the accent known as *ponche* (see "Son Clave").

