

General Breaks

Silence

4 fingers

1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 4 Beats of Silence

Double Silence

two hands show

4 fingers

1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 8 Beats of Silence

2

Triple Silence

like "Double Silence"

one hand upside down

1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 12 Beats of Silence

2

3

Quad Silence

like "Double Silence"

both hands upside down

1

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 16 Beats of Silence

2

3

4

Continue for One Bar

draw a horizontal line in the air with one finger

1

.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Continue 4 Beats

Continue for Two Bars

like "continue for one bar"

with both hands

1

.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Continue 8 Beats

2

Continue for Three Bars

like "continue for two bars"

and then "continue for one bar"

in the opposite direction

1

.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Continue 12 Beats

2

3

Continue for Four Bars

like "continue for two bars"

and then again in the

opposite direction

1

.
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Continue 16 Beats

2

3

4

Boom Break

Show an explosion away from your body with both hands

1

E															
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Eight Up

both hands move up

while fingers shaking

1

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 from soft to loud

2

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Eight Down

both hands move down

while fingers shaking

1

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 from loud to soft

2

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Karla Break

rabbit ears OR

finger pistol shooting up

1

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 from soft to loud

2

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

E															
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Call Break

... "oi": two arms crossing, with OK-sign

... "ua": two fists, knuckles hit each other

E					[E E E]	E				shout ...
---	--	--	--	--	-----------	---	--	--	--	-----------

Cat Break

claws to left and right

m					i					a					u
---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	---

from high to low sound

Wolf Break

wolf's ears and teeth

1	S	S	A	S	S	S	S	A	S
2	S	S	A	S	S	S	S	A	S
3	S	S	A	S	S	S	S	A	S
4	E	E	E	E	E	E	a	u	- - -

< a-u = like a howling wolf

Democracy Break

shout with your

hands forming

a funnel

1	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
2	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
4	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like			
5	E	E		E	E		E	E	E	E			
6	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like			
7	E	E		E	E		E	E	E	E			
8	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like			
9	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like			
10	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like			
11	E		E		E		E		E				

from soft to loud

from soft to loud

Laughing Break

fingers move up

coners of your mouth

ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha			
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	--	--	--

from high to low sound

laughter

Star Wars Break

Move flat hand from top to bottom
of face

1	ms			ms			ms			ls		hs
2	ms			ls		hs	ms					

Progressive Break

5 fingers and other

hand grabbing thumb

(can be inverted by showing the sign upside down)

1	E			E			E			E			E
2	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E

Progressive Karla

rabbit ears OR finger pistol,

the other hand is grabbing

the thumb

1	E			E			E			E			E
2	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
4	E			E			E			E			E

Clave

Point your thumb and index finger up as if indicating a distance of about 10 cm between them

E		E		E		E		E		E		E	
---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--

Clave inverted

Like "Clave", but with the two fingers pointing down

	E		E		E		E		E		E		E
--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---	--	---

Yala Break

all fingertips of one hand gather and shake wrist

E	E			E	E			E					
---	---	--	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

Dance Break

Show a > with your index+middle finger and
move it horizontally in front of your eyes.

E-	very	bo	-	dy	dance	now							
----	------	----	---	----	-------	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Everybody sings

After the break, everyone continues to play
walking around dancing randomly for a while.

Hard Core Break

Both hands in the air, with
index and pinky fingers
pointing up.

1	I		I		I		I		I		E	E
	E		I		I		I		I		E	E
	E		I		I		I		I		E	E
	E		I		I		E	E	E	E	E	E
2-4	E	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	E	E
	E	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	E	E
	E	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	e	E	E
	E	e	e	e	e	e	E	E	E	E	E	E

3 × from soft to loud

I = Agogô plays low e = everyone play softly

2nd time: everyone except Surdos

4th time: Agogô plays high

4 times from soft to loud

Hold one arm vertically in front of your body and move the other up along the arm

When any break or sequence of breaks is shown followed by this sign, it should be played 4 times, starting very quietly and getting louder each time.

Tamborim Stroke

Make a circle with your index finger and thumb, like "OK"

Everyone plays the line of the tamborim once

Play another instrument

Hold both hands in front of your face, and wave your arms to cross each other

Show this sign followed by the sign of an instrument to make everyone play the line of that instrument.

Switch Call/Response

Point with both index fingers forward and wave your arms to cross each other.

Calling and responding instruments switch roles. Only works in Call+Response breaks, for example Wolf Break or Funk Break 1.

In a loop

Hold one arm vertically in front of your body and make a wave over it with the other hand

When any break or sequence of breaks is shown followed by this sign, it should be repeated continuously until the maestra instructs to play something else.

Storming Break

show the arm as a measure with the other hand on elbow don't make a fist

chosen instrument section plays sixteenths with volume indicated by maestra if you can't stand it anymore: scream

Alerting / Magic Wand Break

show your flat hand and hit it with stick

Stop the Surdos. Give a sign for when the Surdos should hit once, by hitting the stick on the hand in the air. It's easier to follow if you paint a small loop in the air with your stick, just before hitting. Start with just one hit every four beats, then add more.

Chaos Break

Point with index finger at temple

Everyone plays something chaotic, getting louder and louder. No Counting in!

Again

Hit with flat hand on forehead

Repeat the last break (combination)

Improvisation

Point at your nose and at the sambista who can play freely

Show all others what they should do in the meantime, so the length of the impro part is defined

Notation

Call-Response

E	Everybody
A	All others
S	Surdos
ls	Low Surdo
ms	Mid Surdo
hs	High Surdo
R	Repinique
sn	Snare
T	Tamborim

Strokes

x	hit the skin with a stick
.	hit the skin softly with a stick
hd	hit the skin with your hand
sil	silent stroke: hit the skin with a stick, while the other hand rests on the skin
O	put your hand on the skin to dampen the sound
fl	flare: multiple hit with rebounding stick
ri	hit the rim with a stick
w	hit the skin with a whippy stick (Tamborim stick), if not available hit the rim
h	Agogô: high bell
l	Agogô: low bell