

# General Breaks

**Silence** 1 

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

 4 Beats of Silence  
4 fingers

**Double Silence** 1 

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

 8 Beats of Silence  
two hands show  
2 4 fingers

**Triple Silence** 1 

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

 12 Beats of Silence  
like "Double Silence"  
2 one hand upside down  
3

**Quad Silence** 1 

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

 16 Beats of Silence  
like "Double Silence"  
2 both hands upside down  
3  
4

**Continue One Line** 1 

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

 Continue 4 Beats  
draw a horizontal line in the air with one finger

**Continue Two Lines** 1 

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

 Continue 8 Beats  
like "continue one line"  
2 with both hands

**Continue Three Lines** 1 

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

 Continue 12 Beats  
like "continue two lines"  
2 and then "continue one line"  
3 in the opposite direction

**Continue Four Lines** 1 

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

 Continue 16 Beats  
like "continue two lines"  
2 and then again in the  
3 opposite direction  
4

**Eight Up** 1 

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

 from soft to loud  
2 both hands move up  
while fingers shaking

**Eight Down** 1 

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

 from loud to soft  
2 both hands move down  
while fingers shaking

**Karla Break** 1 

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

 from soft to loud  
2 rabbit ears OR  
3 finger pistol shooting up  
4

**Call Break**

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

  
... "oi": two arms crossing, with OK-sign  
... "ua": two fists, knuckles hit each other

**Cat Break**

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

  
claws to left and right from high to low sound

**Wolf Break** 1 

S		S		A		S	S	S		S		A		S
---	--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	---	--	---

  
2 S S A S S S S A  
3 S S A S S S S A  
4 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	E	E	E	E	E	E
2	E	E	E	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	E	E	E
4	This	is		what	demo		cracy		looks	like									
5	E		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		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	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha	ha
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laughter

from high to low sound

### 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
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	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
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	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			
--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--

### Yala Break

all fingertips of one hand gather and shake wrist

E		E			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													
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Everybody sings

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

### Hard Core Break

Point up the middle finger

1	I	I		I	I		I	I		I	I		E	E					
	E	I		I	I		I	I		I	I		E	E					
	E	I		I	I		I	I		I	I		E	E					
	E	I		I	I		E	E	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					

3 × from soft to loud

I = Agogô plays low e = everyone play softly  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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**Call-Response**

E Everybody  
S Surdos  
A All others

**Surdos**

O damped with hand  
sil silent hit (with one hand resting on the skin)

**Repenique**

fl flare: multiple hit with rebounding stick  
hd hand hits the skin  
sil silent hit with one hand resting on the skin  
ri hit rim and skin at the same time or hit only the skin near the rim

**Agogô**

h high bell  
l low bell