

# Breaks & Signs

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you can use these breaks and signals in any rhythm

## Changing the tune

*sign X with the sticks or arms*



After this sign, show the sign of the new tune you want to change to.

If you don't use it, only the break following the new tune's sign is played, without changing the tune.

## Into the tune

*move both hands from the shoulders down  
in a half circle each, like waves, backs of the  
hands touching each other at the bottom.*

Signal everyone or a group of instruments to go back into the tune.



## Continue playing

*Turn your hands around each other horizontally*

Show together with instrument section sign(s).



## Everybody else

*Circle with your index finger above your head*

After showing something to one section, always  
signal to the rest of the band what they should do.



## Stop

*Raise one fist  
(look at the inner side of your hand)*

In the moment of stopping, move your fist down.  
In order to "Stop" the band you have to count in.



## Stop immediately

*Raise two fists  
(look at the inner side of your hand)*

In the moment of stopping, move your fists down.  
When "Stop immediately" is shown, everybody should stop immediately,  
even in the middle of the music.



## Speeding Up / Down

*signed with circling a watch on  
the hand clock wise, while pointing  
upwards with the drumsticks.  
Or downwards, to slow down.*

Some breaks can be used for speeding up or slowing down. Others need more practise and some experience.  
Speeding up can also be done following one instrument section, either by signing to everyone to listen to  
and follow while playing, or by stopping all other instruments and then,  
after speeding up, get all back in with a break or just count them in.  
For speeding up you would take the most stable section,  
but maybe not the surdos.



## Volume Up / Down

move flat hands up / tho the bottom

Take care that the band only changes loudness, not speed.



## Loop

draw with you second hand a half circle over the sign you want to repeat

For repeating a sign (or a sequence) endlessly, show with your second hand the loop sign.



## 4 x repeat, from soft to loud

with the left hand, show the sign.  
move your right flat hand along the left arm,  
from elbow to hand upwards without stopping,  
on the side facing your body.

The break you show is repeated four times.  
This is played from soft to loud.

eg with Clave Break:



## Speaking Break

make blabla with one hand

Speaking Break 2: blabla with two hands and some distance between each other

Speaking Break 3: blabla with two hands, like eating each other.

Shout whatever you agreed on.



## Let instruments play another instrument's rhythm

First who, then what

First show the instrument section(s), of **who** you mean.

Then show the instrument section, of **what** they should play.

Remember some instruments have two sticks and some have two sounds (agogô). Not everything is possible.

1 2 3 4

## Silence Break

4 fingers up



4 beats of silence			
1			
One instrument section can continue			

A Surdo and agogô can  
pick up on the last beat  
if it fits to the rhythm.

## Double Silence Break

4 fingers from each hand up,  
while hooking your thumbs  
into each other



8 beats of silence			
1			
2			

A Surdo and agogô can  
pick up ...

## Triple Silence Break

4 fingers from one hand up,  
4 fingers from one hand down,  
while hooking your thumbs into each other



12 beats of silence			
1			
2			
3			

### Quad Silence Break

4 fingers from each hand down,  
while hooking your thumbs  
into each other



16 beats of silence

1				
2				
3				
4				

### Continue One Line

move one index finger  
horizontally in front of you



1	.....	.....	.....	.....
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Continue playing what you  
played for 4 beats

### Continue Two Lines

move two index fingers  
horizontally in front of you



1	.....	.....	.....	.....
2	.....	.....	.....	.....

Continue playing what you  
played for 8 beats

### Break Eight Up

sign eight fingers  
waving towards the sky



	1	2	3	4
1	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I
2	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I	E E E E T+I T+I

T+I = Tamb + low agogô –  
or twice as fast!

< from soft to loud!

### Democracy Break

hold both your hands open around  
your mouth, like calling



1	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
3	E E E E	E E E E	E E E E	E E E E
4	This is	what de mo	cra cy	looks like
5	S S	S S S	S S	S S
6	This is	what de mo	cra cy	looks like
7	E E	E E E	E E	E E
8	This is	what de mo	cra cy	looks like
9	This is	what de mo	cra cy	looks like
10	This is	what de mo	cra cy	looks like
11	E E	E	E	E

< from soft to loud!

### "Tamborim Stroke"

1	.....	.....	.....	.....
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Short break where everyone

