

# 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															
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## Oi/Ua 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	
3	S	S	A	S	S	S	S	A	
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
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
3	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
4	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	
---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--

## Clave inverted

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

		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

2<sup>nd</sup> time: everyone except Surdos

4<sup>th</sup> 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
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