

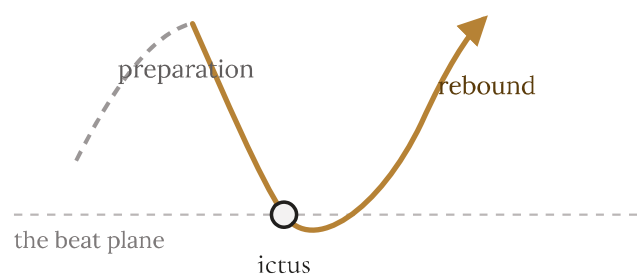
Conducting Patterns

The shapes a conductor's right hand draws in the air, one for each way of counting a bar. Every pattern begins with beat one straight down and ends travelling up, ready to fall again. The numbered dots are the *ictus* — the instant the beat lands.

The patterns Drawn as the conductor sees them, looking out from behind the hand

I in one ALSO USED FOR 3/4 fast · 6/8 fast 3/8 · one-in-a-bar I 1 BEAT PER BAR	2 4 ALSO USED FOR 2/2 · 2/8 6/8 quick I 2 2 BEATS PER BAR	3 4 ALSO USED FOR 3/8 · 3/2 9/8 quick I 2 3 3 BEATS PER BAR
4 4 COMMON TIME C ALSO 4/2 · 12/8 QUICK 2 1 3 4 4 BEATS PER BAR	6 8 ALSO USED FOR 6/4 slow 3/4 broad 3 2 1 4 5 6 6 BEATS PER BAR	5 4 GROUPED 3 + 2 5/8 · 5/2 for 2 + 3, mirror it 3 2 1 4 5 5 BEATS PER BAR

Anatomy of a beat Every beat falls, lands and lifts



PREPARATORY BEAT

One beat in tempo before the music starts, in the same size and mood as the sound you want. Breathe with it — the players breathe too.

THE REBOUND

The lift away from the ictus. Its speed tells the players the tempo of the next beat before it arrives.

THE ICTUS

The point where the hand stops falling. It always happens on the same imaginary plane, roughly at your waist, so the players can find it.

THE CUT-OFF

A small loop or hook on the final beat, clearly closed. Prepare it exactly as you prepared the first beat.

The gesture says more than the count Same pattern, different hand

LOUD AND SOFT

Size is dynamic. A small pattern near the chest is *piano*; a wide one at arm's length is *forte*. Grow the pattern for a crescendo.

THE LEFT HAND

Never a second metronome. It shapes dynamics, cues entries, holds long notes and asks for balance.

LEGATO

Curved corners, continuous motion, no stop at the ictus — the hand seems to move through water.

EYES AND BREATH

Look up. A glance and a breath bring an entry in more reliably than any movement of the stick.

STACCATO AND MARCATO

Sharp angles and a distinct stop at each ictus. Marcato adds weight on the way down.

SUBDIVISION

When the tempo drags, split each beat into two smaller ones inside the same pattern; return to the plain pattern as soon as it settles.