

U.S. ARMY BANDS

Field Manual 12-50

(15 October 1999, supercedes FM 12-50, 6 September 1991)

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Appendix B

The Marching Band

SECTION III — BAND COMMANDER MOVEMENTS

B-74. For this section, the term "band commander" refers to either the band commander or his designated representative when leading a marching or ceremonial band. Signals are performed at a tempo between 116 and 120 beats per minute.

STATIONARY MOVEMENTS

B-75. Band commanders perform the stationary movements as described in [FM 22-5](#), Chapter 3, with necessary modifications. When carrying a baton, band commanders execute attention and parade rest as illustrated in [Figures B-11](#) and [B-12](#).

ATTENTION

B-76. Hold the baton in your left hand between the thumb and forefingers with the baton tip pointed upward and parallel to the inside of the forearm. Hold your right arm along your side IAW Chapter 3, [FM 22-5](#). Band commanders march with the baton in the left hand ([Figure B-12](#)).

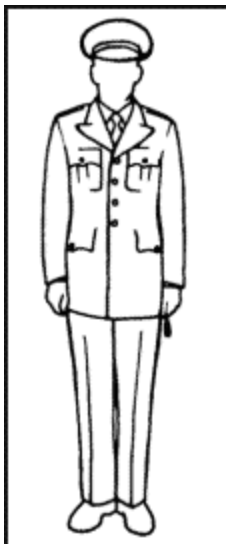


Figure B-12. Attention

PARADE REST

B-77. Place your right hand at the small of your back and centered on your belt. Keep the fingers extended, your palm facing outward. Place your left hand (holding the baton) in your right hand. Hold the baton with the same grip (between the thumb and forefingers) used in [Figure B-13](#).



Figure B-13. Parade Rest

INSTRUMENTS UP

B-78. Instruments Up is a three-count movement used to bring the instruments to the Prepare To Play position. See [Figure B-14](#).

- Count 1: raise your right hand to a point in front of your chin. Close both hands into a fist around the baton with the palms down and index fingers together. The baton is parallel to the ground. Band members will come to Ready Instruments.
- Count 2: silent count.
- Count 3: extend your arms up and out from your body. Close your left hand into a fist. Band members will come to Prepare To Play. After completing Instruments Up, your arms should be in a position to give a preparatory beat.

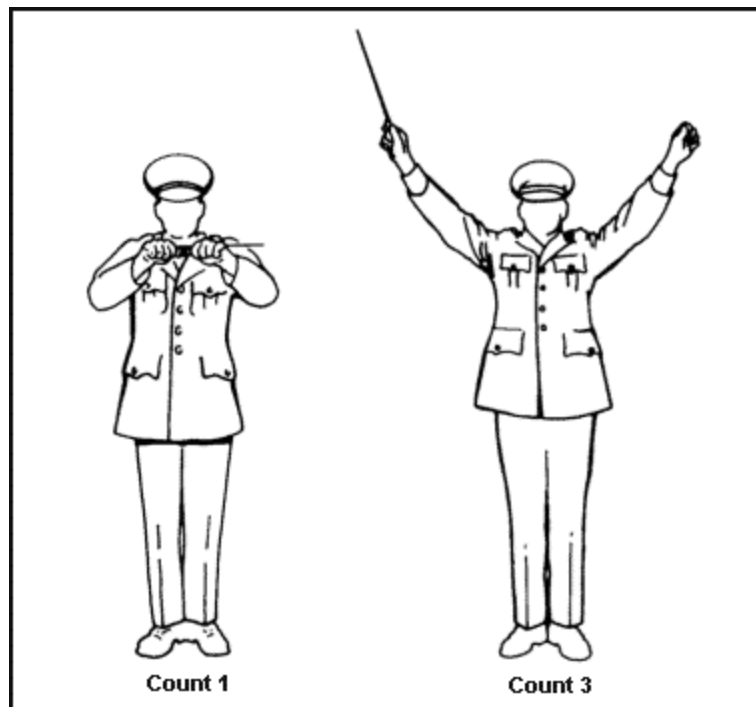


Figure B-14. Instruments Up

CONDUCTING REGION

B-79. Count 3 of Instruments Up is the starting position for the preparatory beat. After giving the preparatory beat, move your arms slightly into your Conducting Region. The boxed-in area of [Figure B-15](#) indicates the approximate conducting region. Conduct in a motion

extending forward from your elbows. Your wrists should be at approximately hat level. You may raise or lower the Conducting Region to conform to your height. While conducting, you may keep your left arm at your side, or held horizontally in front of you (see [Figure B-15](#)).

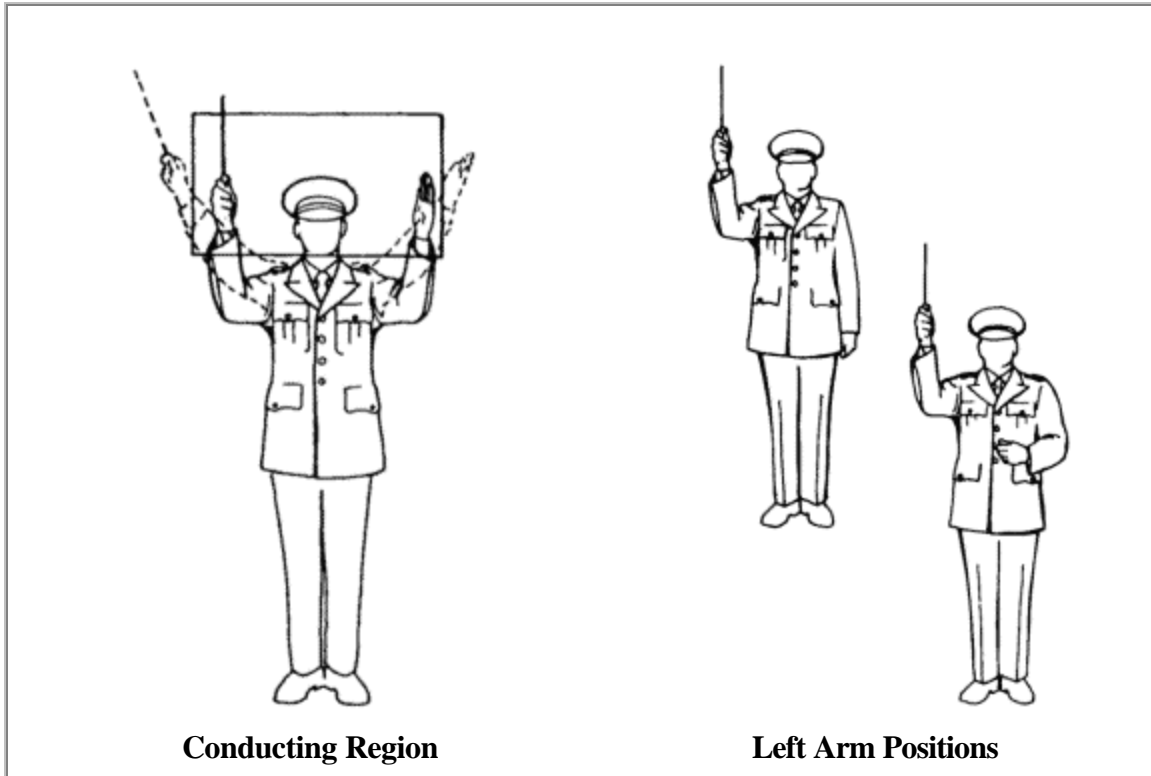


Figure B-15. Conducting Region

CUT OFF CADENCE

B-80. Use the Cut Off Cadence to signal the end of a march or when the last note of the music provides a rhythmic three-count ending (see [Figures B-16](#) and [B-17](#)).

READY POSITION

B-81. Four bars before signaling the Cut Off Cadence, fully extend both your arms with your left hand in a fist. Stop conducting.

PREPARATORY SIGNAL

B-82. One beat before signaling the Cut Off Cadence, move your left hand sideways to the right by bending your elbow. The preparatory signal must be given in cadence with the signal of execution.

SIGNAL OF EXECUTION

- Count 1: on the first beat of the Cut Off Cadence, return your left arm to the Ready Position. This signals the percussion

section to begin playing the Cut Off Cadence.

- Count 2: no movement.
- Count 3: no movement.
- Count 4: no movement.
- Count 5: move your arms to a position centered over your head with your hands crossed, right hand in front of your left hand. The hand with the baton will be the closest to the band.
- Count 6: return both arms to the Prepare To Play position.
- Count 7: drop your arms to your sides as in the position of Attention, keep the baton in the right hand with the baton tip towards the ground. After one silent beat, go to Count 1 of Instruments Down ([Figure B-17](#)).

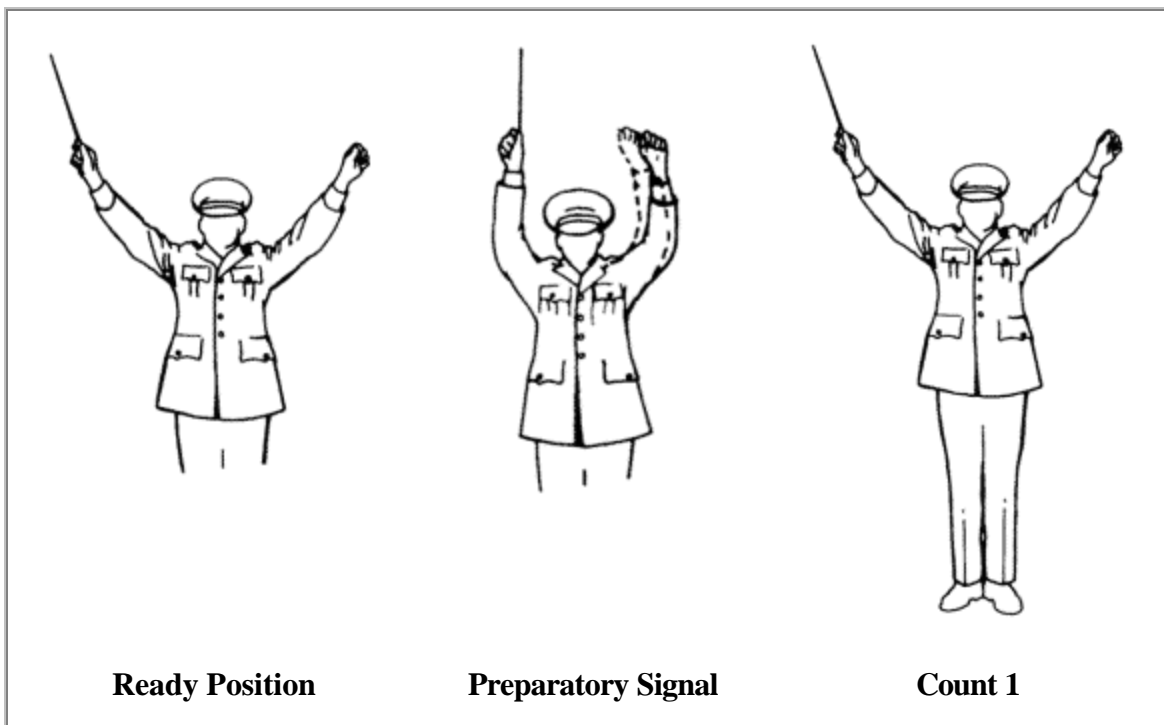


Figure B-16 - Cut Off Cadence

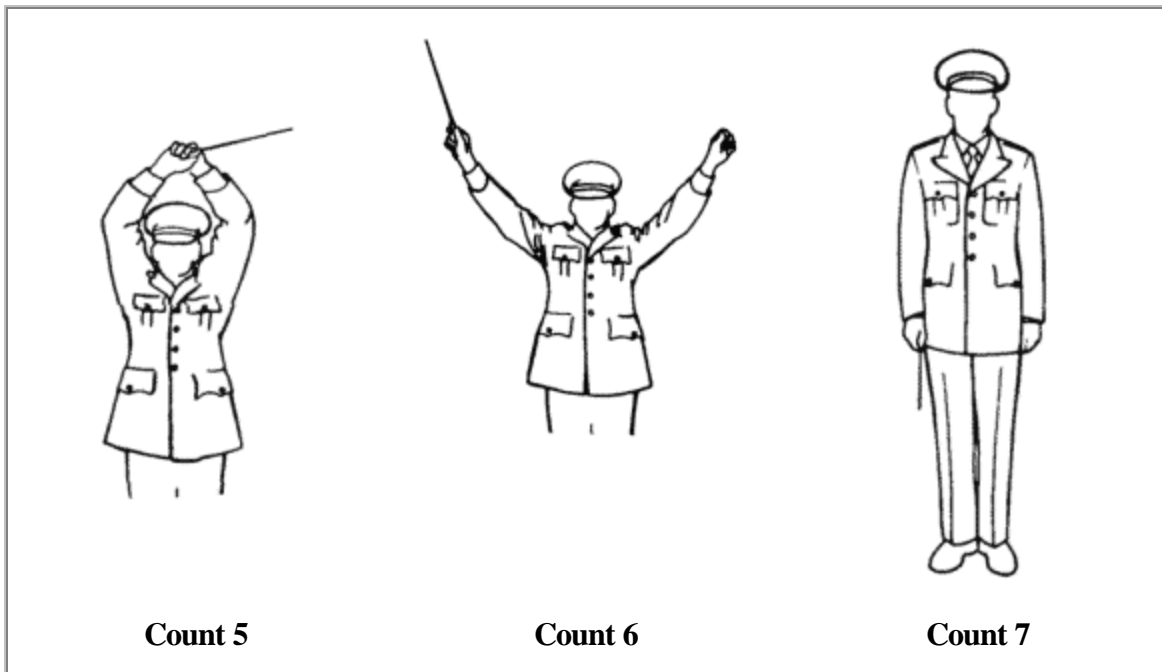


Figure B-17. Cut Off Cadence (continued)

CUT OFF (FERMATA)

B-83. Use a Fermata Cut Off when the last note of the music is a fermata, tenuto, or does not provide a rhythmic three-count ending. Make a counterclockwise and upward loop with your right hand. The left hand will make a clockwise loop. At the point of the Cut Off close your left hand into a fist. Your hands should stop in a position that is identical to the third count of Instruments Up. This places your arms in a position ready to execute Count 1 of Instruments Down ([Figure B-18](#)).

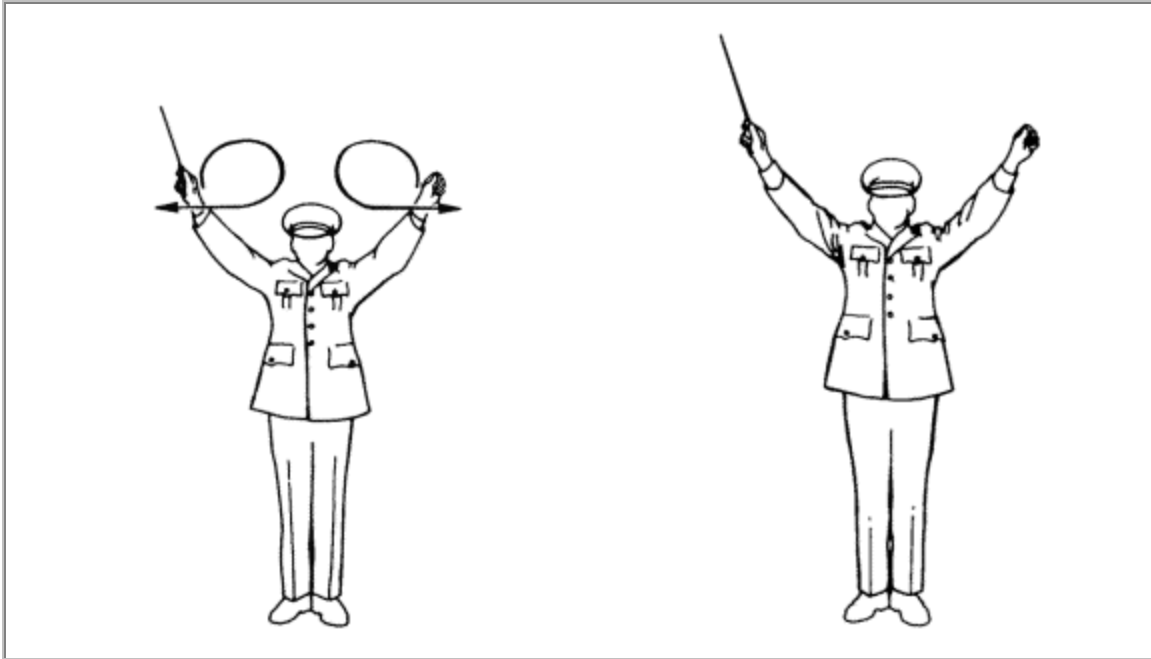


Figure B-18. Cut Off - Fermata

INSTRUMENTS DOWN

B-84. Instruments Down is a three-count movement used to bring band members from the Prepare To Play position to the Carry (see [Figure B-19](#)).

- Count 1: move your arms to a point in front of your chest and level with your chin. Close both hands into a fist around the baton with palms down and index fingers together. The baton should be parallel to the ground. Band members will come to the Ready position.
- Count 2: silent count.
- Count 3: lower your arms back to your sides (Attention position). Band members will come to the Carry position.

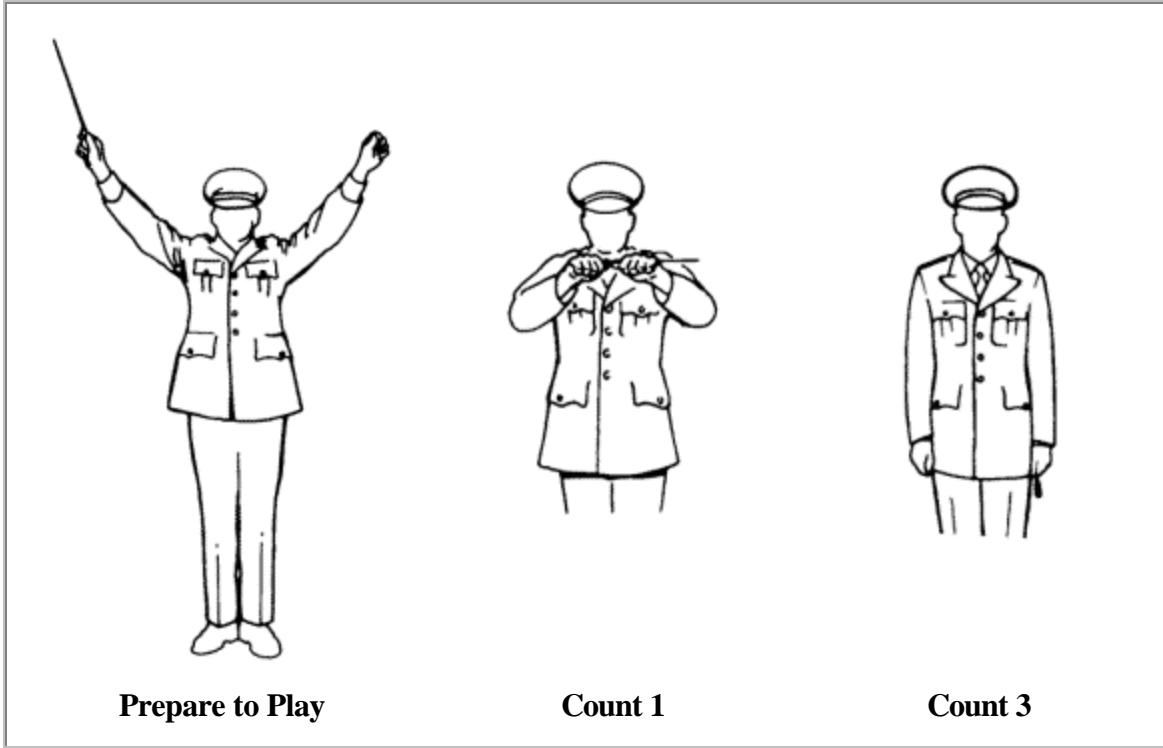


Figure B-19. Instruments Down