

Conducting Patterns

Music

The beat shapes for 2, 3 and 4, and where the downbeat lands.

Drawn from the conductor's own point of view.

1

In 2

Down, then up. Marches and fast compound time.

2

In 3

Down, right, up. Waltzes and minuets.

3

In 4

Down, left, right, up. The most common pattern.

4

In 6

Usually conducted in 2 unless slow, when it becomes down-down-left-right-up-up.

TWO RULES

Beat 1 is always downward

The last beat of any bar is always upward, preparing the next down

The upbeat before beat one sets the tempo and the dynamic. Players take everything from that gesture.