

STAFF/MACE DRILL FOR DRUM MAJORS

The Drum Major shall carry a staff/mace. These **compulsory** staff/mace signals are to be used when the band is on parade. The whistle may be used to attract the attention of the band but **must only be used when the band is playing**. All commands given by the Drum Major shall be given from the position of "Attention".

Please note: There is no rule for starting off bands playing in street marches apart from Rule 29-38, nor is there a set system for Drummers to play "two threes", a five beat roll or a seven beat roll. Bands can commence playing the march immediately or can use an introduction by the percussion section, and there is no requirement for bands to play to the end of the strain after the halt (refer "Halt/Cut Out" below).

ATTENTION. The point of the staff/mace shall be in line with, and touching, the toe of the right foot. The staff/mace shall be held firmly at the grip below the head, elbow bent so that the forearm is parallel with the ground. The staff/mace is to be held to the right of the body.

STAND AT EASE. As the left foot is carried to the left the staff/mace shall be brought to the right front to the full extent of the right arm.

STAND EASY. As the head of the staff/mace is brought to the centre of the body the left hand is placed on top of it. The right hand is then placed on top of the left hand.

TRAIL. Carry the staff/mace in the right hand below the head, thumb in line with the seam of the trouser leg. The staff/mace is parallel with the ground.

Please note: When marching in "Slow Time" the staff/mace shall be held still. When marching in "Quick Time" the staff/mace shall be swung from front to rear. When moving about the contest area the staff/mace may be carried at either the "Trail" or "Carry".

SHORT TRAIL. Hold the staff/mace vertically in the right hand at the grip below the head, the elbow bent and close to the right side, the tip of the staff/mace about 100mm from the ground.

Please note: When preparing the band for Inspection, or on tour of inspection, the staff/mace shall be carried at the "Short Trail".

CARRY. Hold the staff/mace obliquely at the point of balance between the thumb and first two fingers of the left hand, left elbow close to the body, wrist and elbow in line, and the left hand about opposite the left breast.

Please note: When marching in "Slow Time" the staff/mace shall be held still. When marching in "Quick Time" the staff/mace may be moved diagonally across the body between the right breast and the left hip.

ADVANCE or FORWARD. The staff/mace is to be swung over the shoulder from front to rear to front, accompanied by a 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound.

MARK TIME. The staff/mace shall be held horizontally above the head in both hands, accompanied by a 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound.

WHEELING. Raise the staff/mace above the head to the full extent of both arms, the staff/mace to be held horizontally with the ferrule directing the outer flank. A 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound is used to indicate the start of the movement. The head of the staff/mace should be directly over the head of the Drum Major during the execution of the movement. When the band has completed the wheel and the front rank is facing the new direction the signal for “*Forward*” shall be given.

HALTING. At least three (3) paces before reaching the “Halt” point the Drum Major shall raise the staff/mace above the head to the full extent of the right arm. The staff/mace is to be held vertically, with the head uppermost. When the band is playing, the verbal “*Halt*” command is replaced by three (3) short whistle sounds on consecutive paces (L-R-L). On reaching the “Halt” point the Drum Major shall bring the staff/mace smartly down to the position of “Attention” in one movement. Alternatively he/she may bring the staff/mace down to the “Short Trail” position on the first whistle sound before assuming the position of “Attention” at the completion of the “Halt”.

Please note: The “*Halt*” SHALL be judged at all Queensland State and District marching competitions.

CEASE PLAY. From the “Carry” or “Trail” position, grip the staff/mace at the bottom of the chain with the right hand. Raise the staff/mace to an oblique position to the full extent of the right arm. The arm is to be at an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal and the staff/mace at a right angle to the arm. The left arm shall be at the side. A double bass drum beat may be used to indicate that the band is to cease playing. The double bass drum beat occurs on the left foot (as indicated by the Drum Major), followed by another double bass drum beat on the next left foot, then a louder bass drum (single) beat is played on the next L-R-L. As the last note is played (on the last left foot) bring the staff/mace to the “Halt” position then back out to the 45 degree angle position. The staff/mace is brought back to the short trail position on the next left foot (i.e. when the drummers play their five beat roll, seven beat roll, or “two threes”). The band shall bring their instruments to the position of “Attention” at the same time.

Please note: If the band is to continue marching after ceasing playing, players are to bring their instruments to the position of “Attention” on the next left foot after the cease play and continue marching.

HALT/CUT OUT. The staff/mace drill for the “Halt/Cut Out” shall be the same as for “Cease Play”, and the bass drummer will perform the double bass drum beats as detailed in “Cease Play”. After the L-R-L (following the double bass drum beats) the band shall complete the movement by bringing their right foot in beside the left, adopting the position of “Attention”. As the last note is played (on the last left foot) the staff/mace shall be brought to the “Halt” position then allowed to drop through the hand to the position of “Attention” (refer “Halting” paragraph above).

Please note: The “*Halt*” SHALL be judged at all Queensland State and District marching competitions. Bands are encouraged to execute the “*Halt/Cut Out*” when competing in such marching competitions.

SALUTING. When on the march the staff/mace shall be at the “Carry” in the left hand to enable the Salute to be executed with the right hand. Head and eyes are turned towards the Saluting base. The Salute shall be maintained for six (6) paces before and after the Saluting point.

Please note: In the unlikely situation where the Drum Major is not wearing headdress, no “Salute” shall be executed. In this instance the Drum Major should assume the position of “Attention” with his/her upper body and execute an “Eyes – Right/Left” only (i.e. no arm movement) to acknowledge the saluting dais or dignitary.

FRONT TO REAR COUNTERMARCH. When approaching the point for the countermarch the staff/mace shall be raised, ferrule forward, to be held at an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal. A 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound is used to indicate the start of the movement. On arriving at the point for the countermarch the Drum Major shall make a left about turn or left about wheel (refer paragraph 42) and move through the centre of the band. The staff/mace shall be returned to the "Trail" or "Carry" position at the completion of the countermarch unless it is intended to execute the "Flank to Flank Countermarch", in which case the "*Mark Time*" signal shall be given and the staff/mace returned to the ferrule upright position.

FLANK TO FLANK COUNTERMARCH. Accompanied by a 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound, the staff/mace shall be smartly brought down from the ferrule upright to the horizontal position about head level, with the ferrule pointed to the right flank, then immediately reversed to point to the left flank.

RIGHT or LEFT TURN. The staff/mace shall be held in a vertical position, ferrule uppermost, and head about chin level. At the first sound of the 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle the staff/mace shall be brought down smartly to a horizontal position in line with the shoulder and with the ferrule pointed in the direction in which the turn is to be made.

INCLINE. The staff/mace is to be raised obliquely at an angle of 45 degrees, arms extended above shoulder height, the ferrule of the staff/mace pointing in the direction of the incline. This is accompanied by a 3-beat (L-R-L) long whistle sound.

FORM. The staff/mace is to be raised obliquely at an angle of 45 degrees, arms extended above shoulder height, head of the staff/mace pointing in the direction to which the band will change.

FLOURISHING. The accepted procedure for the use of the Drum Major's staff/mace is as laid down herein. Once proficient some Drum Majors like to add variety and "swing" the staff/mace. This is certainly effective when executed with skill and precision. No rules for this can be laid down, however the Drum Major shall be allowed five (5) paces in front of the band (refer paragraph 29). It is a matter of personal practice and natural ability.

SWAGGER MARCH. With the staff/mace in "Slow Time" (Ceremonial or Massed bands). On the command "*Slow March*" the staff/mace shall be brought to the "Trail" position for the first six (6) paces, then: (1) bring the staff/mace forward on the left foot and place it on the ground at the same time as the right foot; (2) in a circular motion bring the staff/mace across the body to the left breast; (3) carry the staff/mace out to the full extent of the right arm; and (4) bring the staff/mace back to the "Trail" position and carry for two (2) paces. Repeat the movement as required.

STAFF/MACE DRILL IMAGES FOR DRUM MAJORS



Attention



Stand at Ease



Stand Easy



Trail



**Short Trail
(front view)**



**Short Trail
(side view)**



**Short Trail
(R side hand view)**



**Short Trail
(L side hand view)**



Carry
(front view)



Carry
(R side view)



Carry
(L side view)



Carry
(front view hand)



Carry
(R side view hand)



Carry
(L side view hand)



Advance



Mark Time



Left Wheel



Right Wheel



Halt



Cease Play



Halt/Cut Out



Salute to Front



Salute to Left
(front view)



Salute to Left
(L side view)



Salute to Right
(front view)



Salute to Left
(R side view)



Countermarch
(front view)



Countermarch
(front quarter view)



Countermarch
(side view)



Flank to Flank
(position 1 of 3)



Flank to Flank
(position 2 of 3)



Flank to Flank
(position 3 of 3)



Left Turn
(position 1 of 2)



Left Turn
(position 2 of 2)



Right Turn
(position 1 of 2)



Right Turn
(position 2 of 2)



Right Incline



Left Incline



Right Form



Left Form



Swagger March
(trail R foot forward)



Swagger March
(trail L foot forward)



Swagger March
(position 1 of 3)



Swagger March
(position 2 of 3)



Swagger March
(position 3 of 3)



Swagger March
(trail L foot forward)



Swagger March
(trail R foot forward)