

Alex Christie

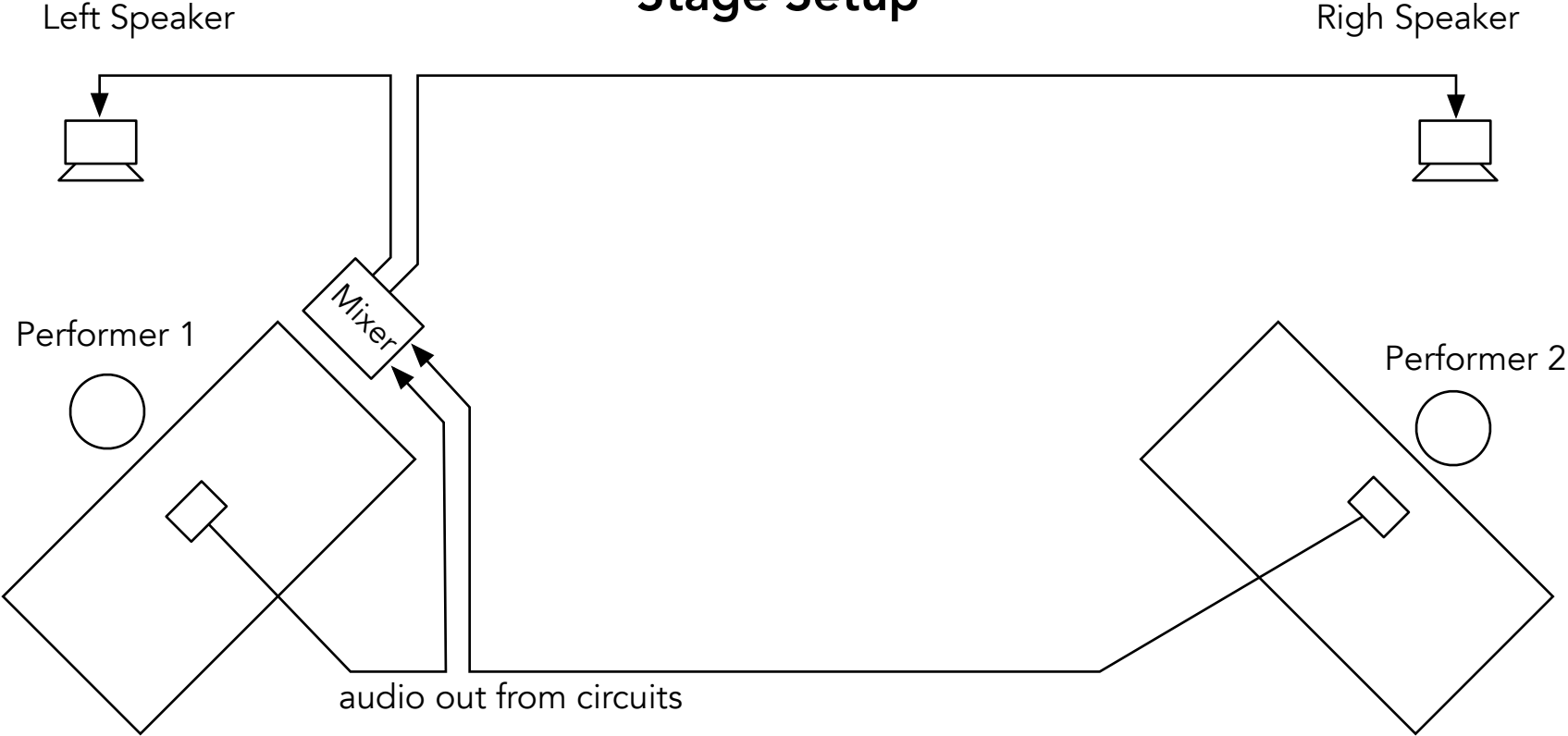
Operating Manual (3rd ed.)

for electronics and light

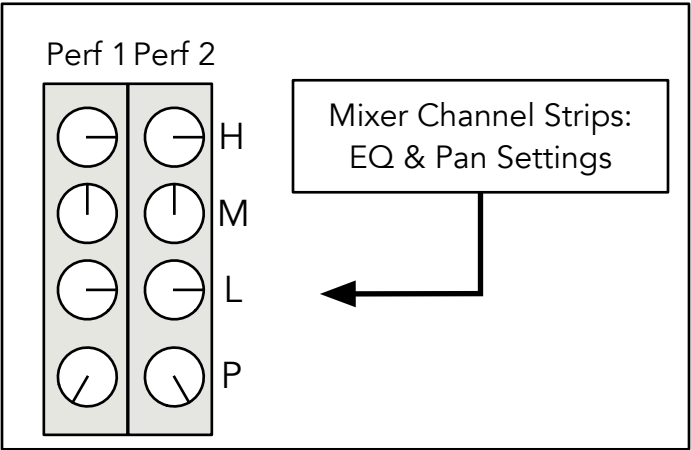
2021

for Popebama

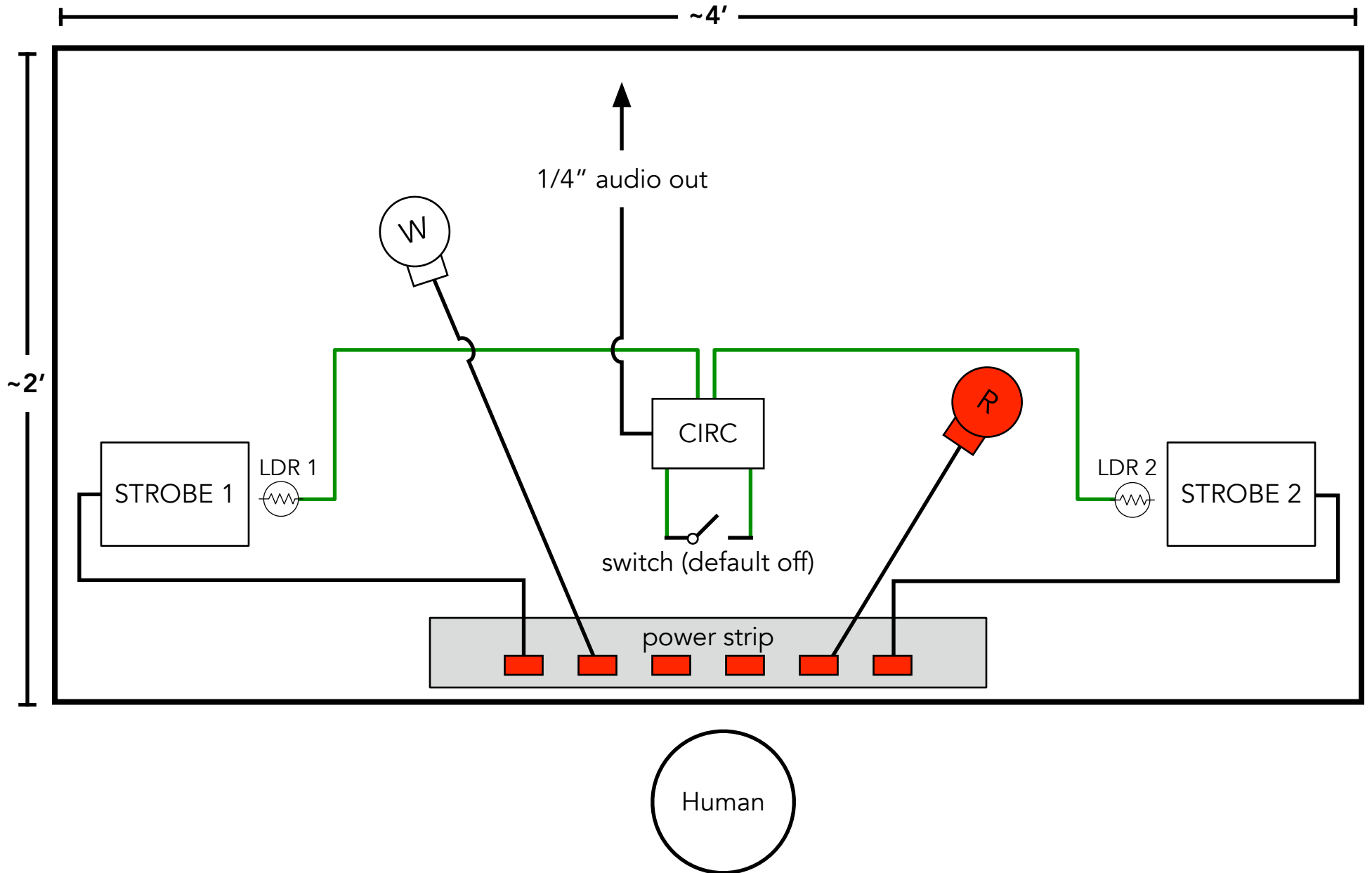
Stage Setup



Audience



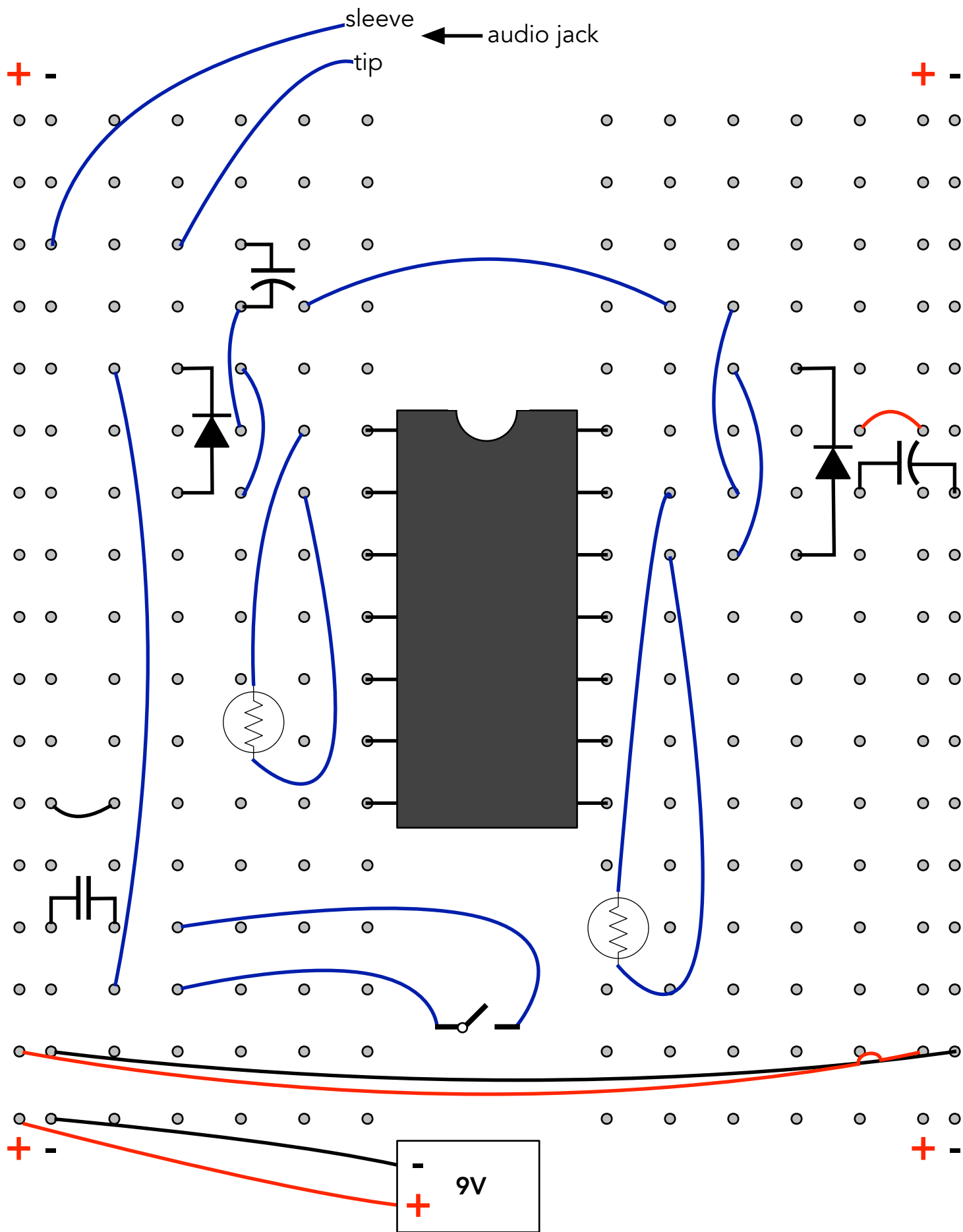
Single Table Setup



Photosonic Strobescycler Parts List

Part	Qty	Specs	Notes
C1	1	4.7 uf	polarized
C2	1	3.3 nf 332 (polyester film)	
C3	1	.1 uf	polarized
LDR1	2	any photoresistor	these vary a lot so test before soldering
S1	1	single pole single throw	
D1	2		
Hex Schmitt Trigger	1	CD40106BE	
IC Socket	1	14-pin	
9v battery clip	1		
1/4" TS output jack	1		

Photosonic Strobenaut Circuit Diagram



Program Notes for the Audience

Excerpt from Operating Manual (3rd ed.):

“When presented with abandoned technology, the user must reconfigure their relationship with the equipment in order to allow it to function and speak in its native mode. This process takes time and patience and a willingness to relinquish control. The technology will communicate more clearly once it is thoroughly understood on its own terms. Delays in communication between users are inevitable. Study the processes that drive inputs and outputs. Actuate transmissions. Open channels for reception. Allow for interventions from all actors. Do not assume a syntax. When engaged with in these ways, the equipment will operate as intended and broadcast its multiple modes of existence into multiple spaces.”

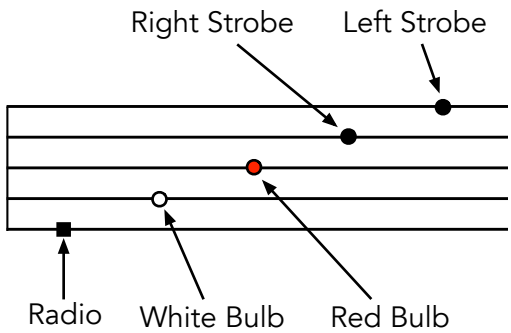
Operating Manual (3rd ed.) was developed by The Institute for Reconfigured Intervention and Spatial Modalities (TIRISM). The exact history of the manual is unclear. It seems to have been written by multiple authors over the span of multiple decades. Eventually, the document was abandoned and has been left permanently unfinished.

TIRISM itself seems to have disappeared from the field, most likely due to lack of funding and the alienating nature of its projects. TIRISM’s mission was always a bit unclear, shrouded in impenetrable language that frequently felt like intentional misdirection. Operating Manual (3rd ed.) is the perfect example of this lack of clarity. It contains unlabeled diagrams that could represent either new technologies or theoretical concepts. Its technical descriptions are interrupted by poetic musings. It explains incredibly specific maintenance procedures but provides no context for what is being maintained. In the end, both TIRISM and Operating Manual (3rd ed.) seem primarily concerned with communication within what the manual refers to as “a constellation of multiplicities”.

Program Notes for the Performers

I began composing *Operating Manual (3rd ed.)* in February of 2020 and did not complete it until May of 2021. During that time, I was thinking a lot about communication and isolation. The performers in this piece establish and experiment with sound and light as modes of communication. Their interactions sometimes succeed and sometimes fail. They experience synchronicity, but also lonely solitude. They are constantly listening, watching, and sending out beacons in hopes of contact, and in hopes of hope.

Notation Key



↑ switch on strobe

↓ switch off strobe

↑ — ↓ switch on, "sustain", switch off

● immediate on-off, like a blip on a radar

↑ ● ↓ ●
— dashed lines show moments of exact synchronization

■ square "notehead", switch on or off radio (if two radios are used they will be notated on the bottom two lines)

□ change radio tuning (frequency only unless otherwise notated)

⊕ - - - slight acceleration in strobe rate
⊖ - - - slight deceleration in strobe rate

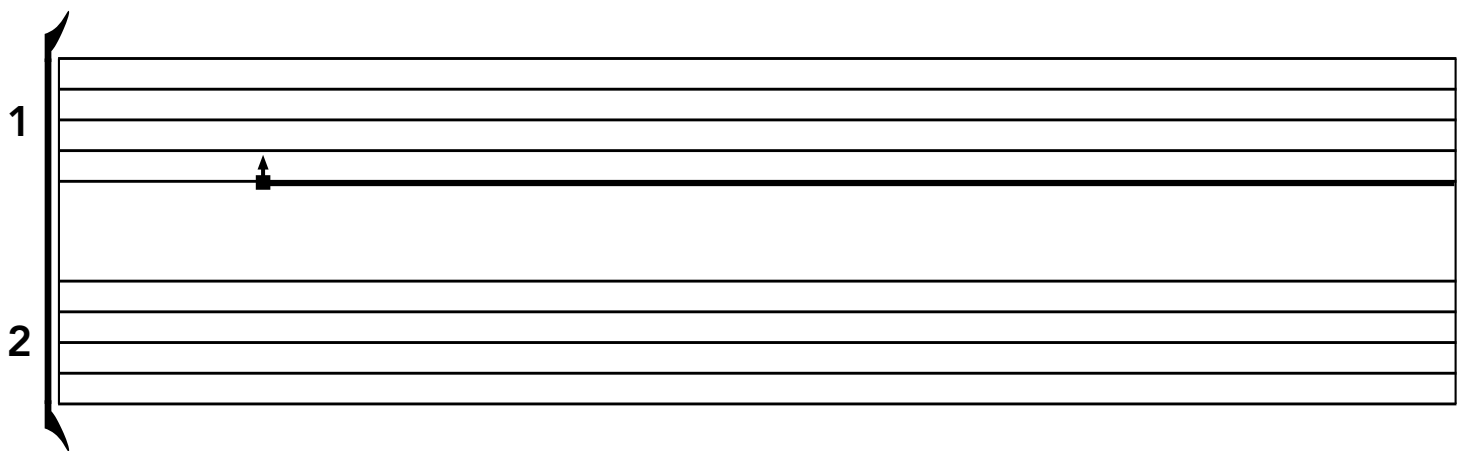
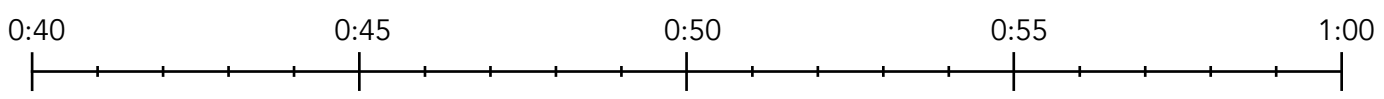
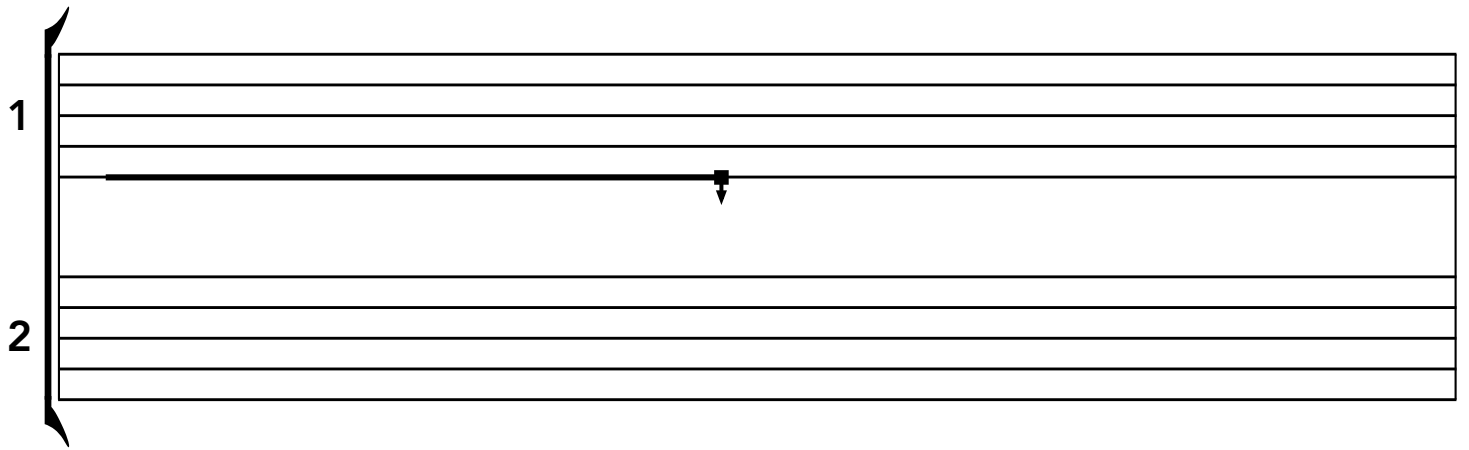
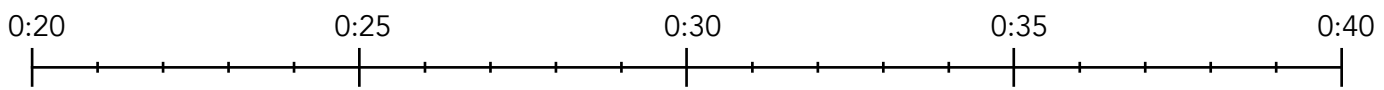
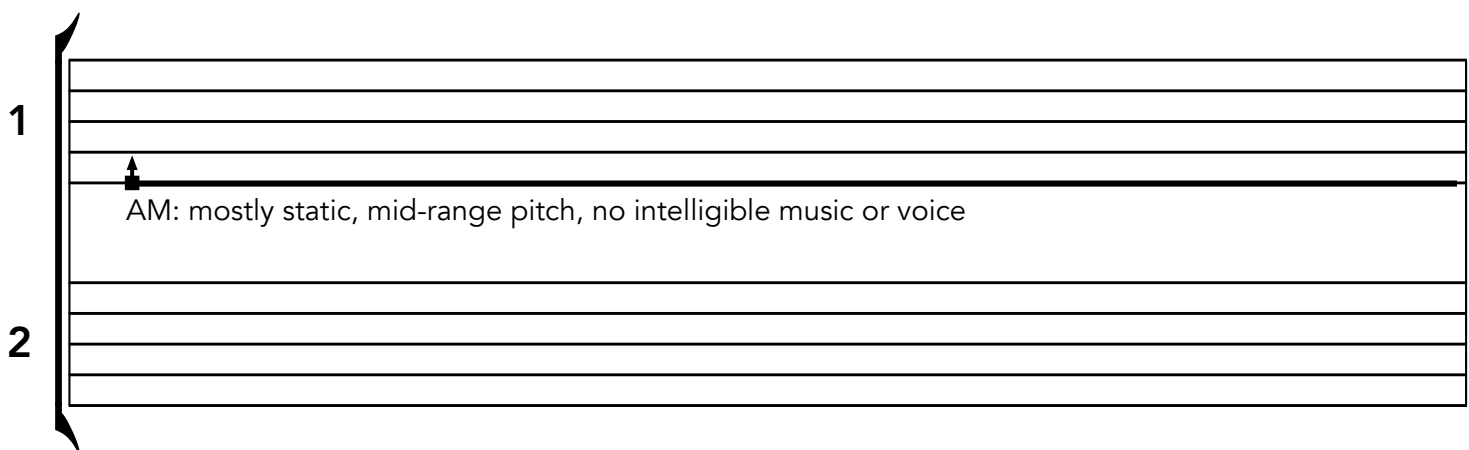
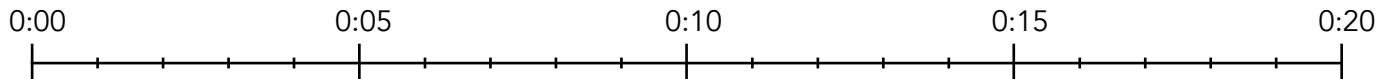
◀ sweep lightbulb across the table in the direction the triangle points (right to left or left to right)

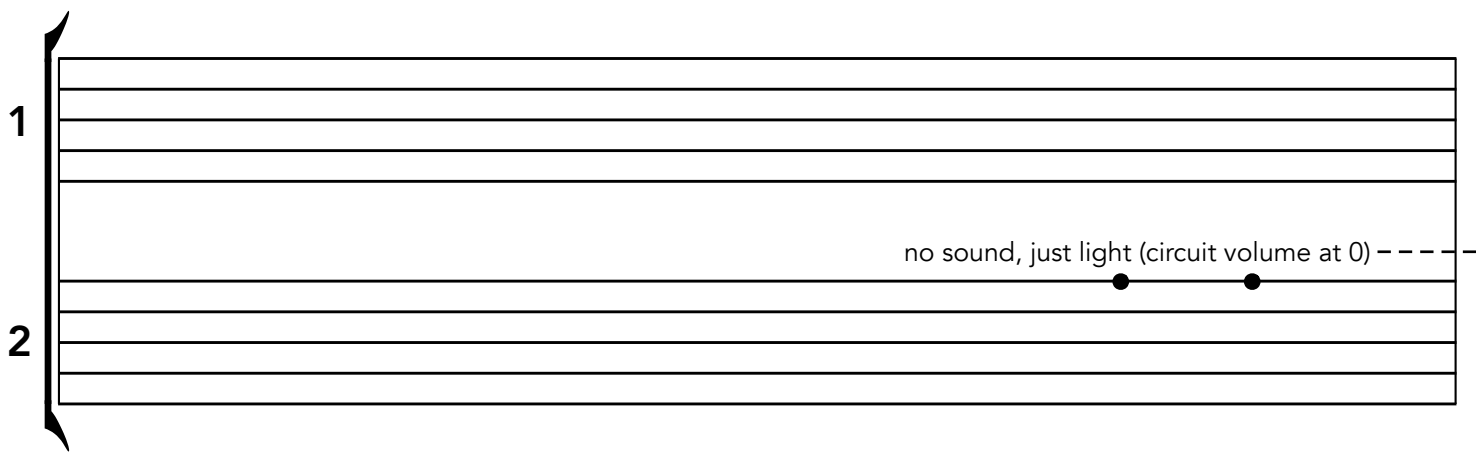
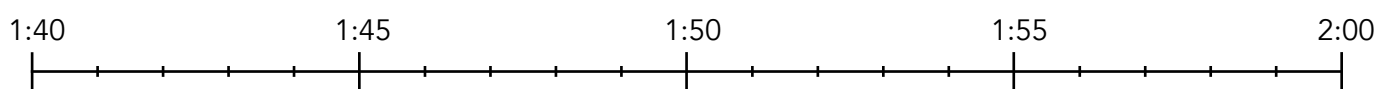
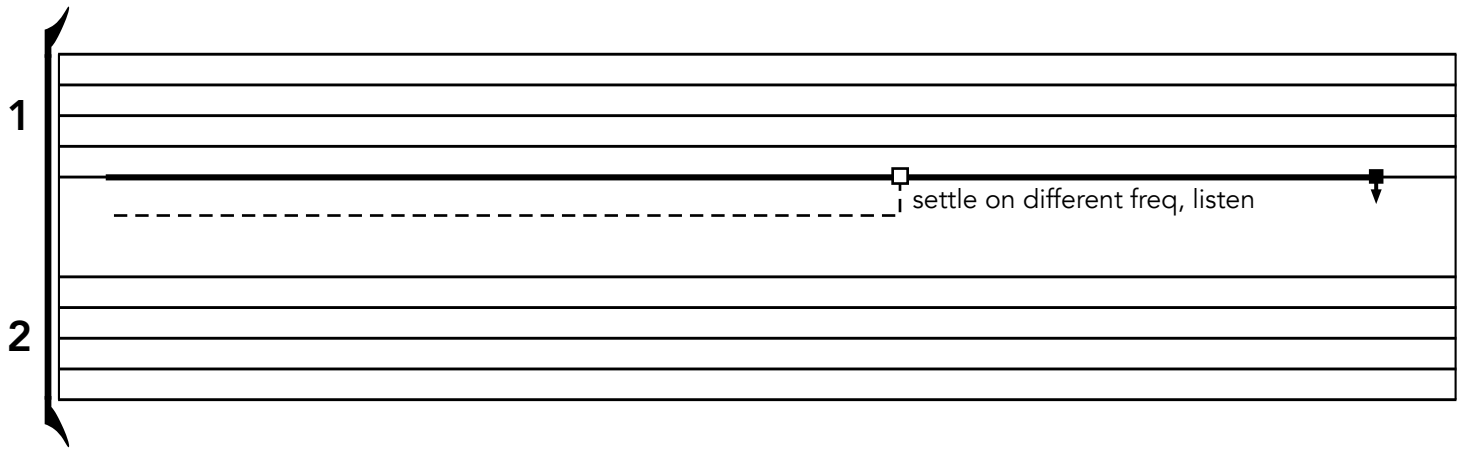
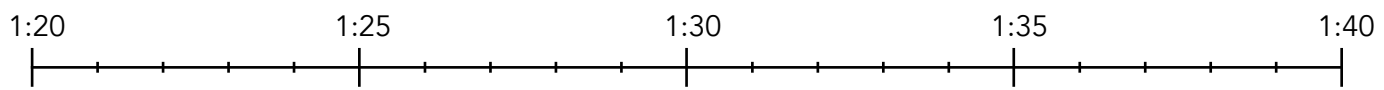
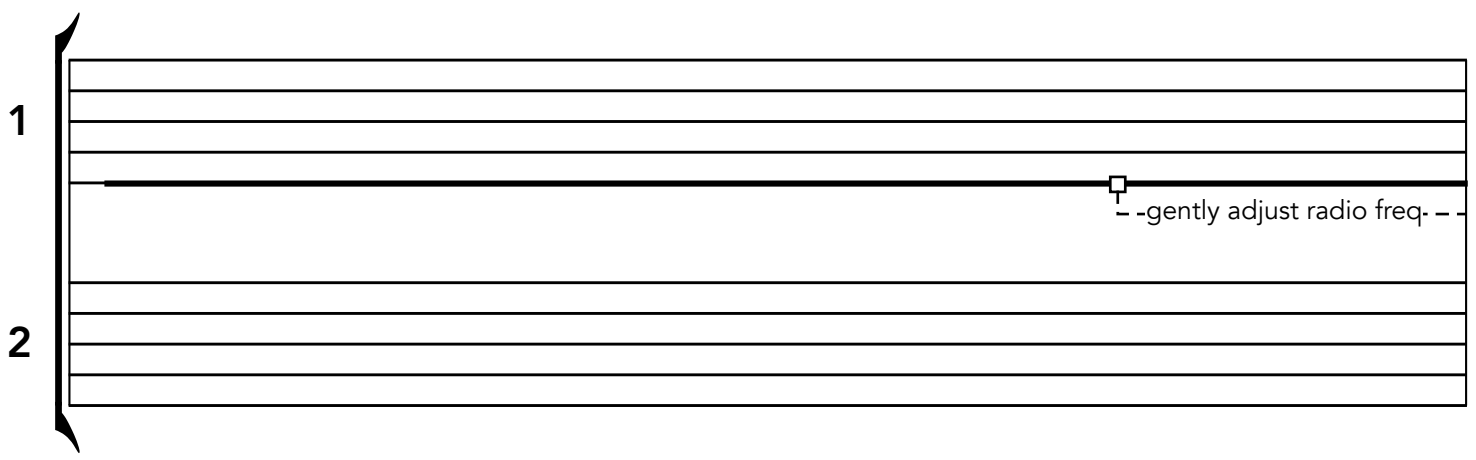
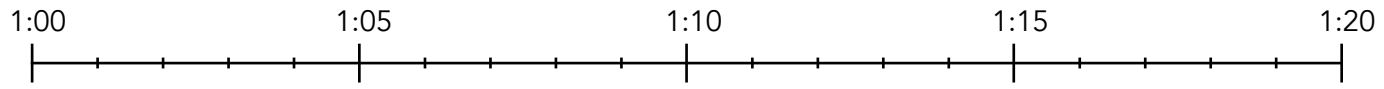
▶

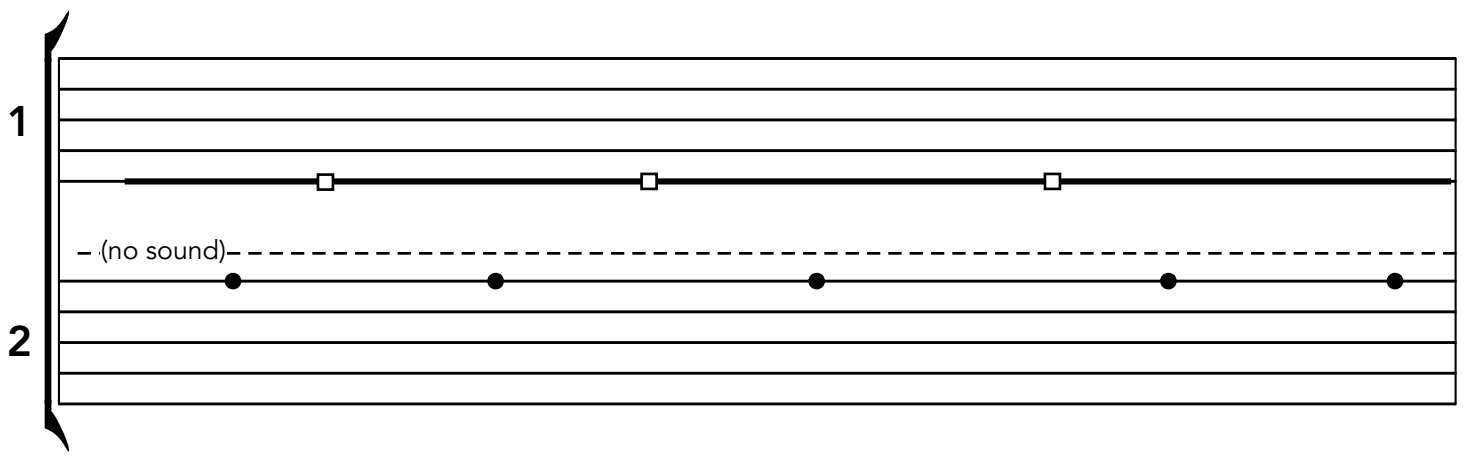
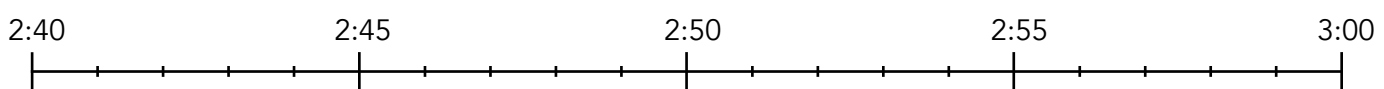
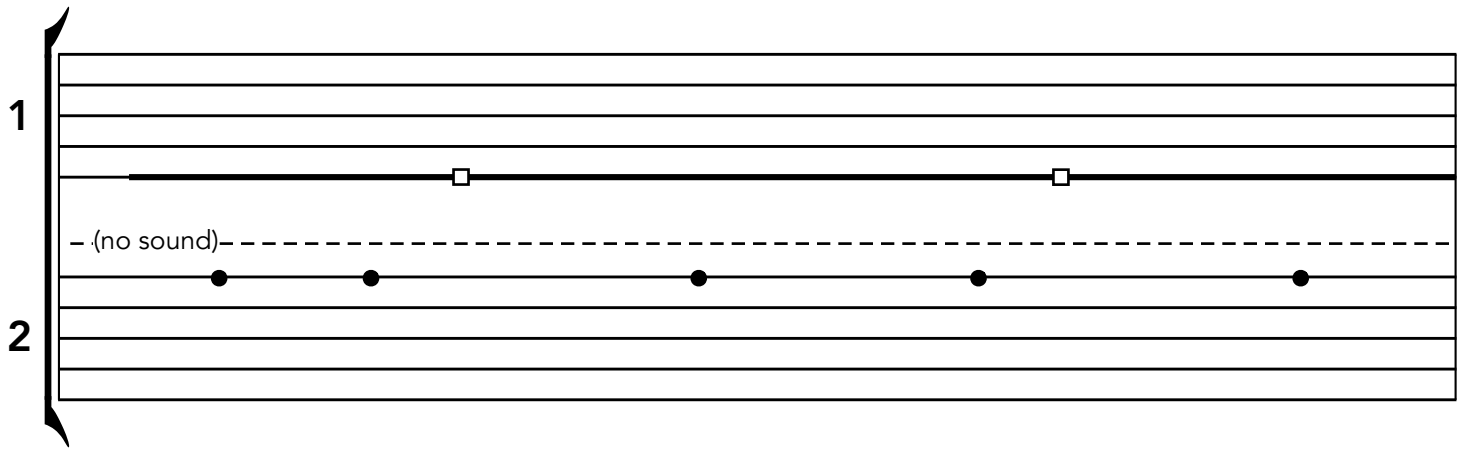
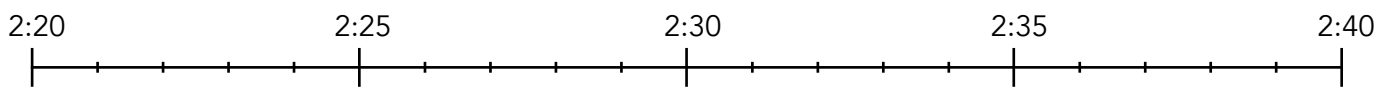
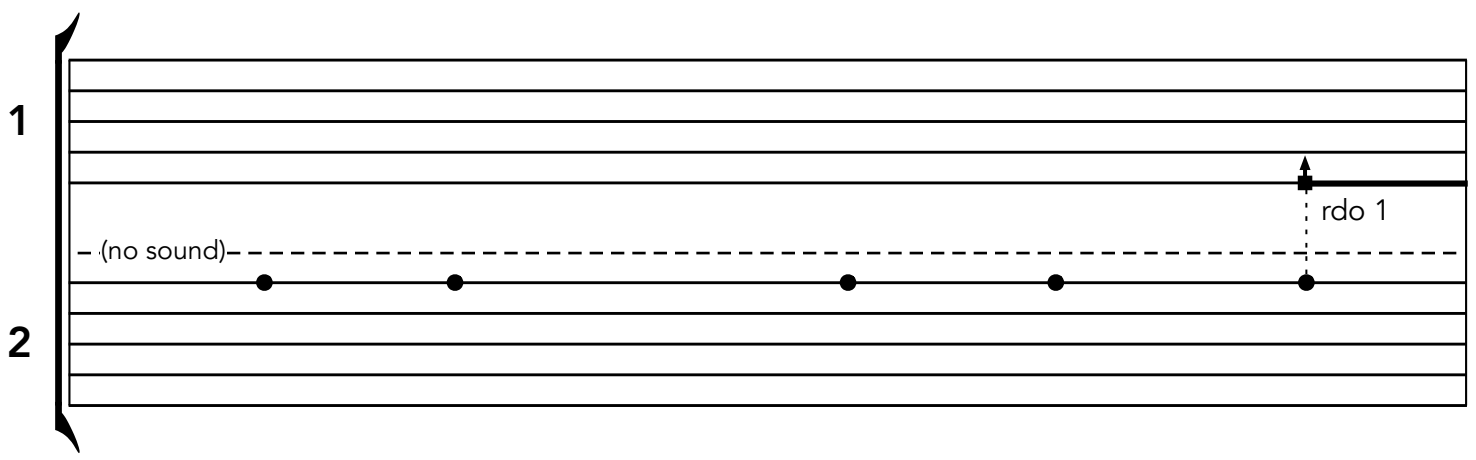
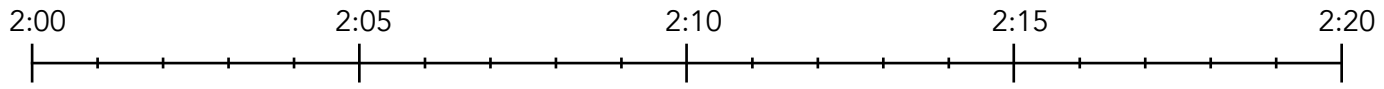
Movments

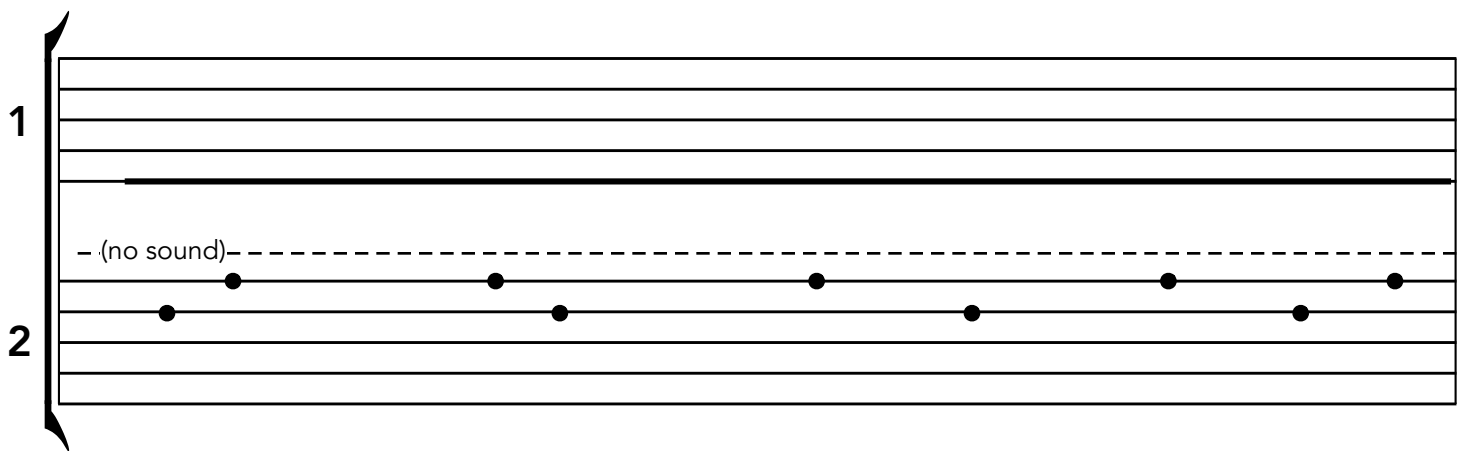
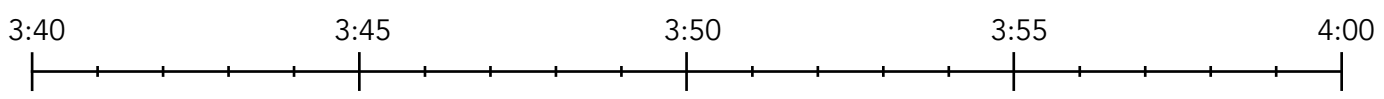
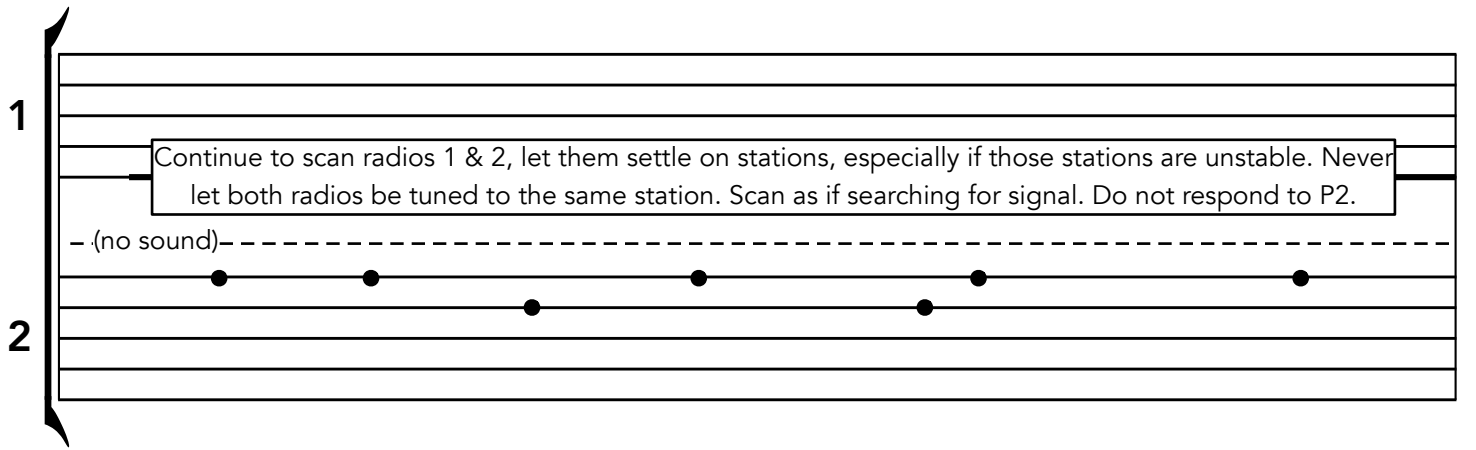
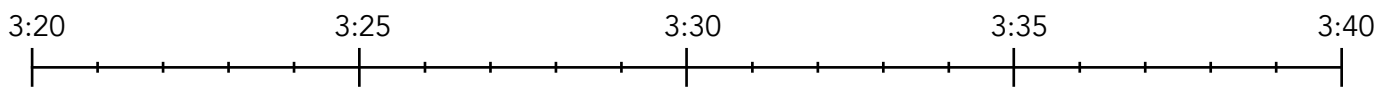
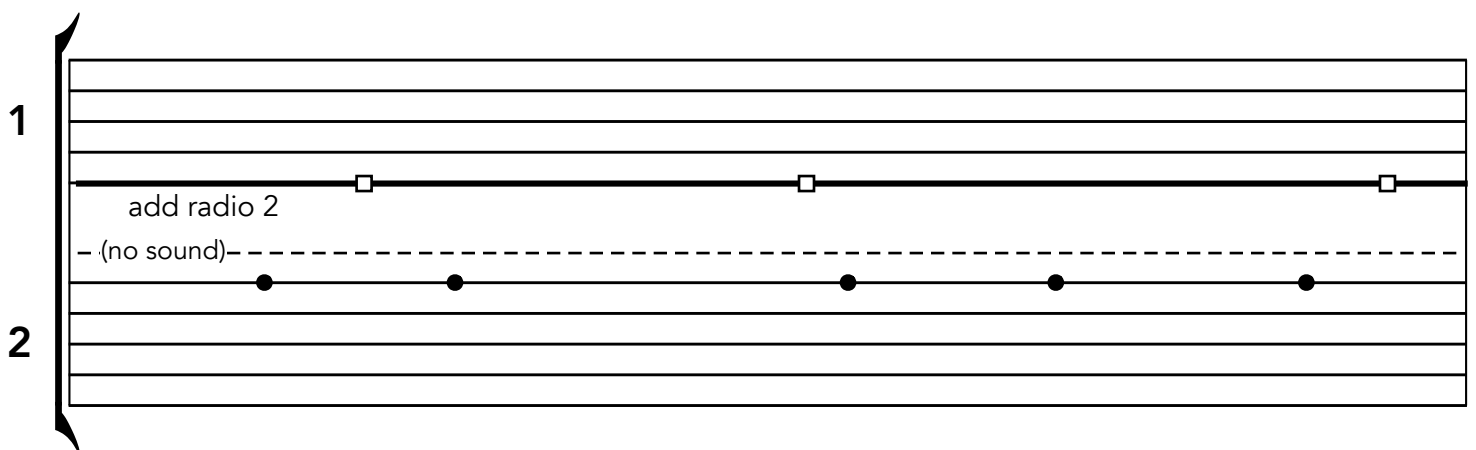
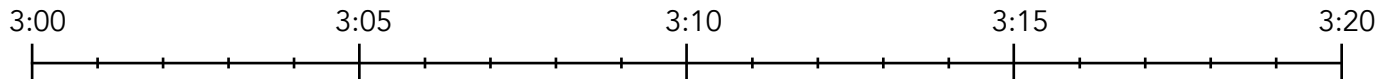
- 1. RX/TX Radios**
- 2. TX-Double Solo**
- 3. X Strobe Signals**
- 4. Switch Logic**

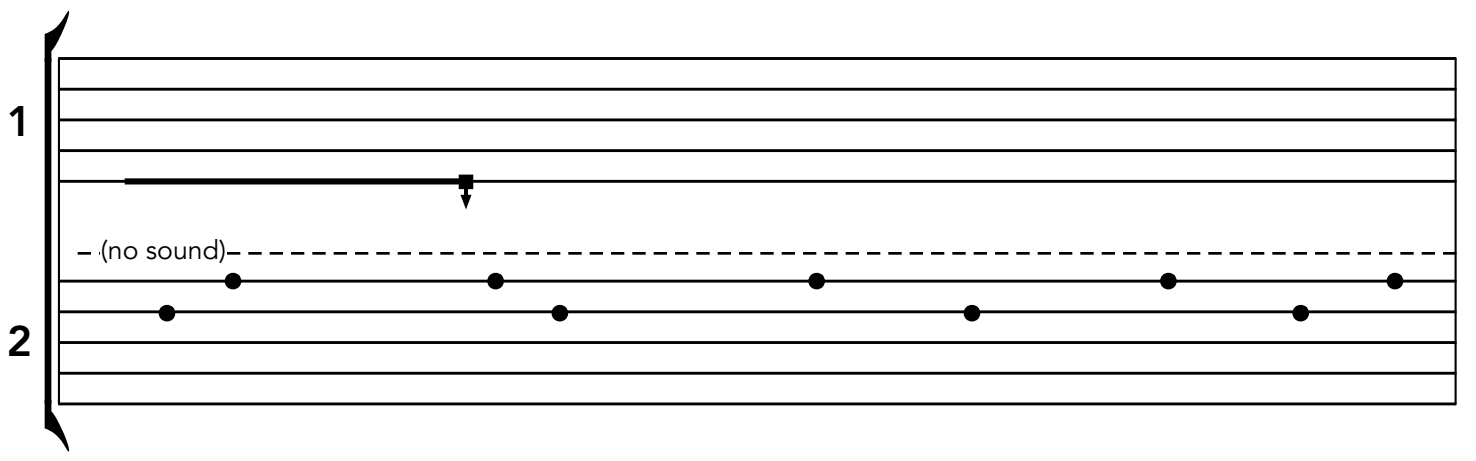
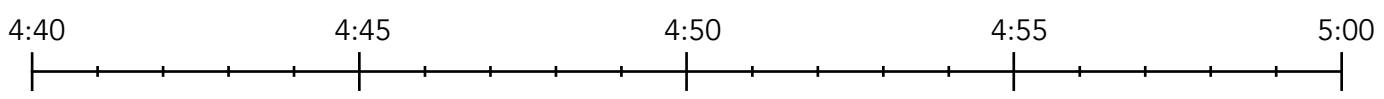
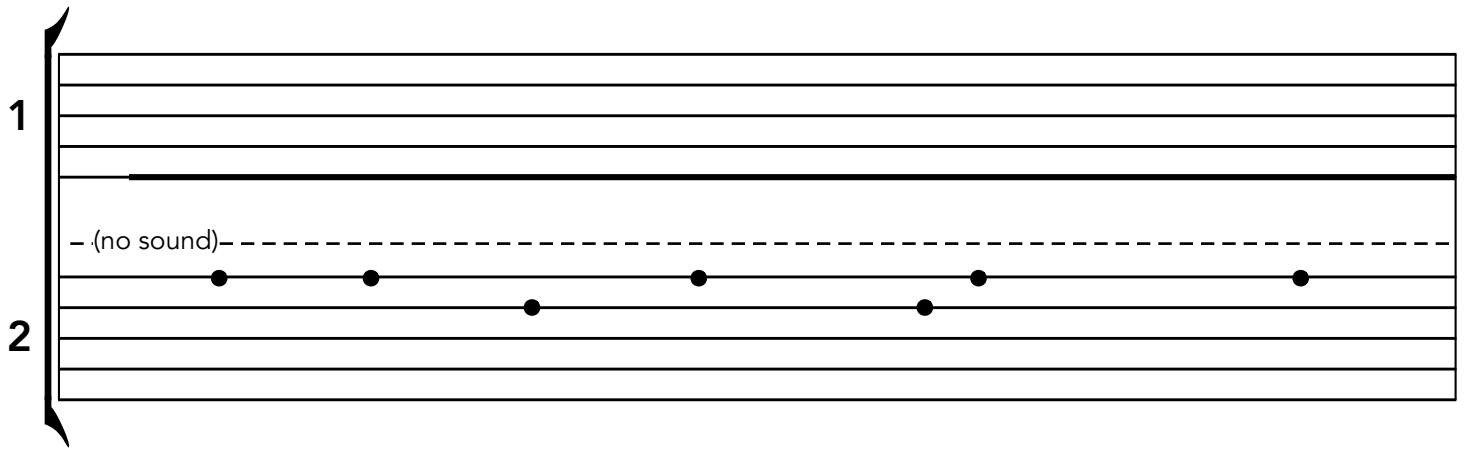
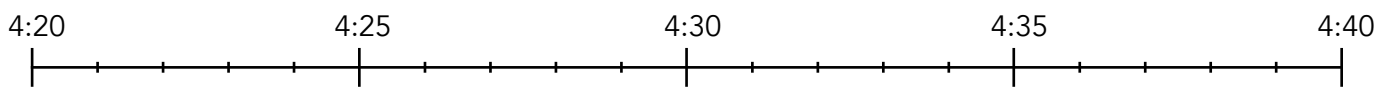
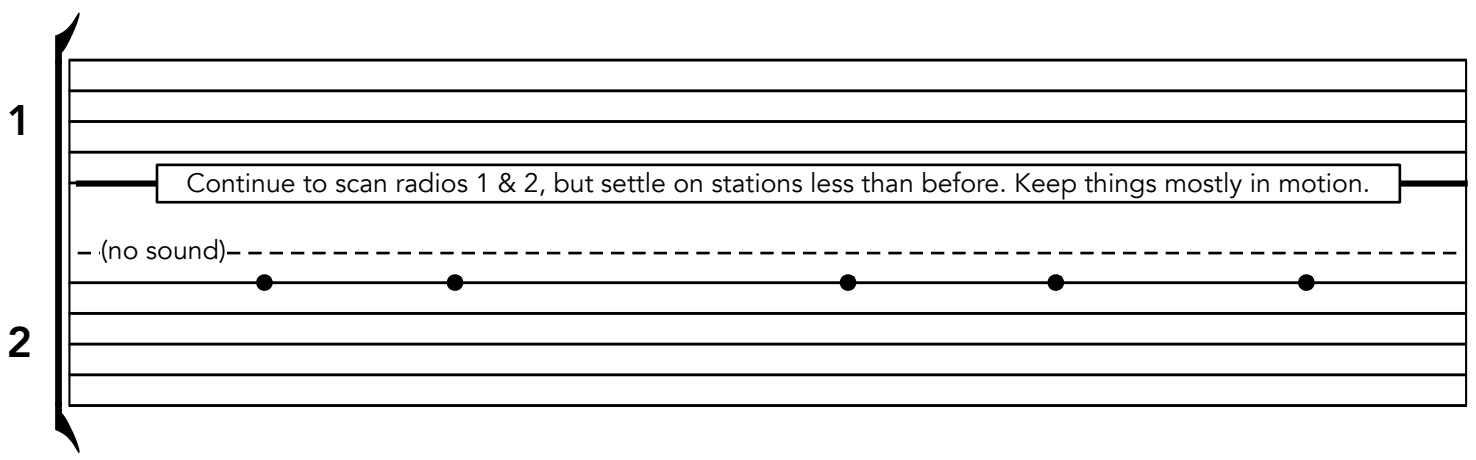
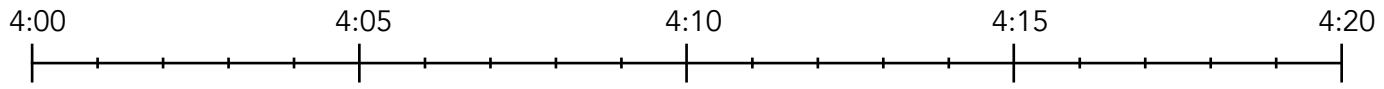
1. RX/TX Radios











2. TX-Double Solo

2. TX-Double Solo

Equipment Test and Documentation: Transmission & Possible Synchronicity

P1: **right** strobe on between ~40-50 bpm

P2: **left** strobe on between ~40-50 bpm

Circuit sound is still off. This movement is silent.

Observe the patterns of the two strobe lights. Use the transmission log on the following pages to record any synchronicities between the two strobes. Use the following protocol:

- mark the box in the "0" column when your strobe occurs entirely by itself.
- mark the box in the "1" column when your strobe coincides with the other strobe.
- mark the box in the "X" column when the two strobes are very close to occurring in unison.
- mark the box in the blank column when any anomaly, irregularity, or abnormal event occurs. Make sure to record a brief description of what happened in the notes box on the right of the corresponding row.

Be sure to position your paper so your hand and pen/pencil are illuminated by your strobe and a relatively crisp shadow is cast. The silent projection and visual amplification of these physical gestures are the musical material for this movement.

	0	1	X		
D:					
T:					
L:					
				/	
001					
002					
003					
004					
005					
006					
007					
008					
009					
010					
011					
012					
013					

date **start time** **location** **page#/total pages**

mark if unison (points to '1' column)

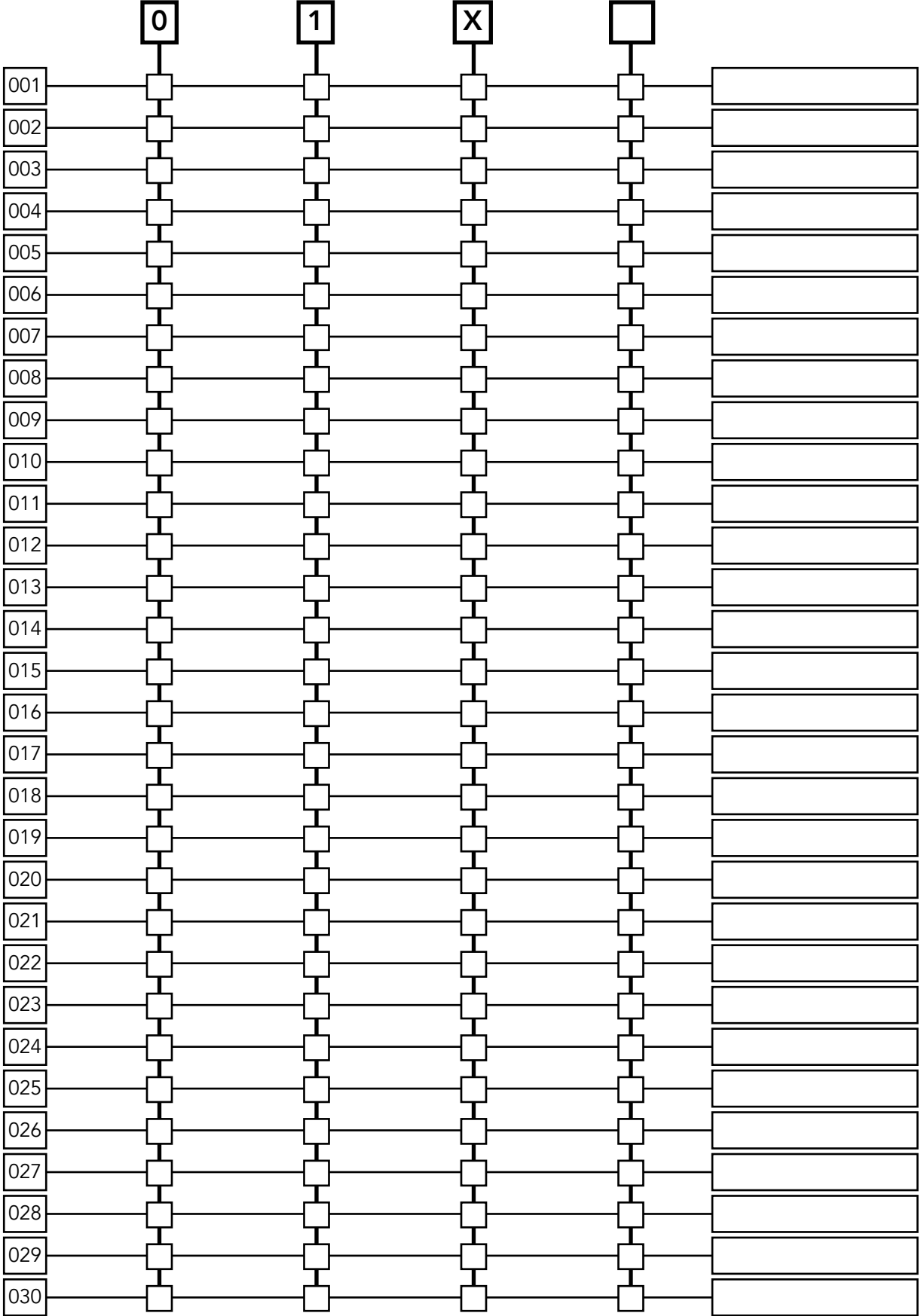
mark if no unison (points to '0' column)

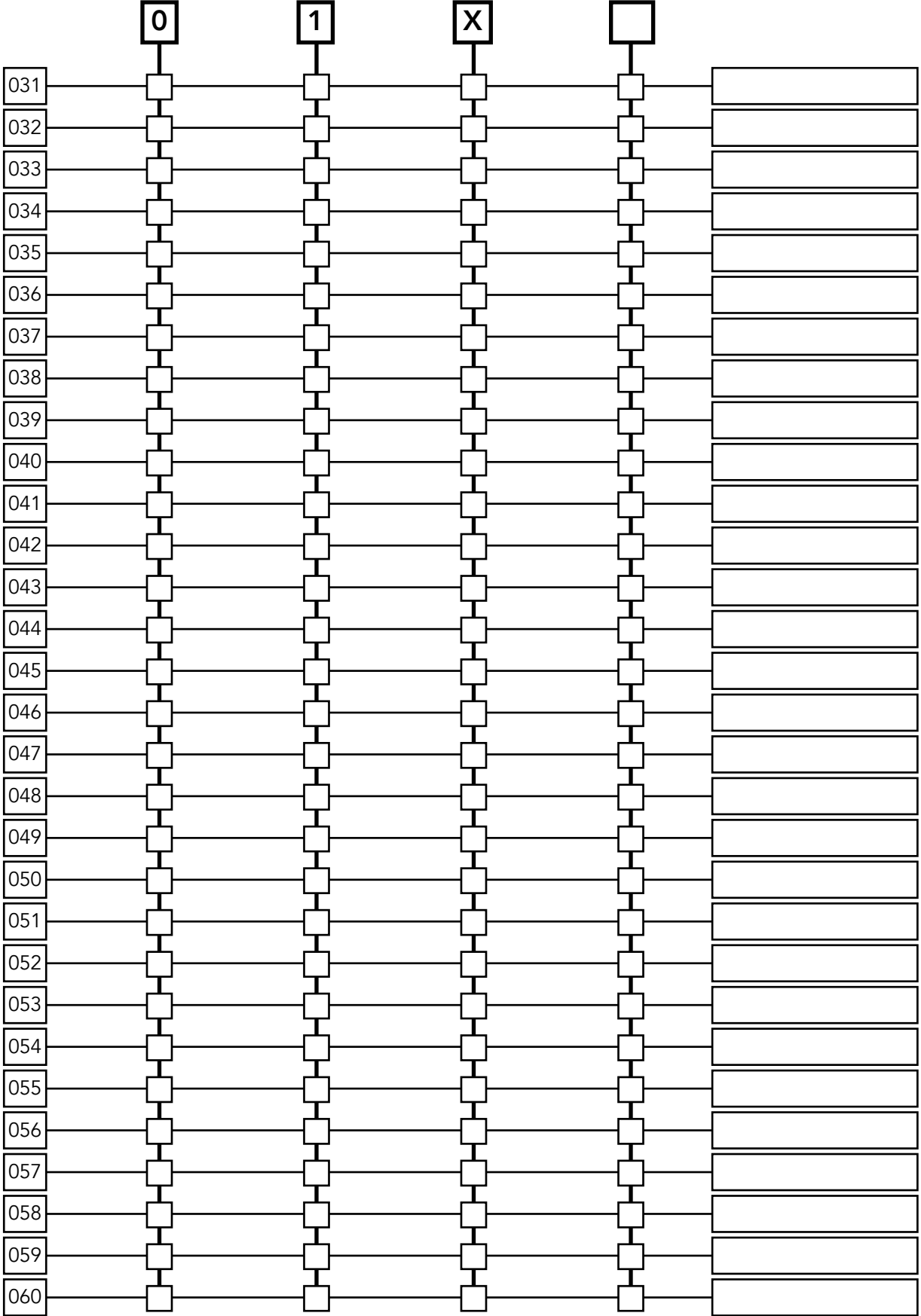
mark if close to unison (points to 'X' column)

mark if abnormal (points to blank column)

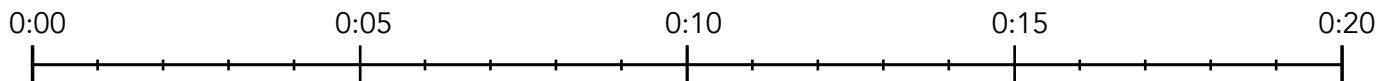
record notes (points to notes column)

strobe number for your strobe (points to row numbers)





3. X Strobe Signals



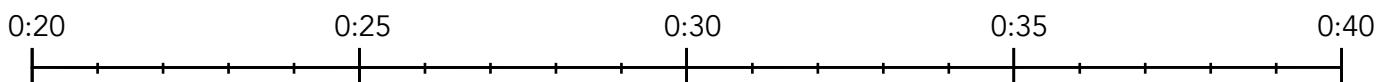
1

slow

A musical staff with five lines. A thick black line is drawn across the staff, starting at the first line and ending at the fifth line. An upward-pointing arrow is positioned at the beginning of this line, with the word "slow" written above it.

2

A musical staff with five lines, identical to staff 1.



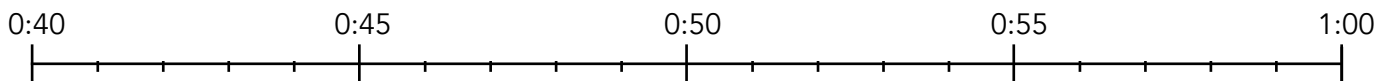
1

accel

A musical staff with five lines. A thick black line is drawn across the staff. A dashed horizontal line is drawn above the staff, with the word "accel" written above it.

2

A musical staff with five lines, identical to staff 1.



1

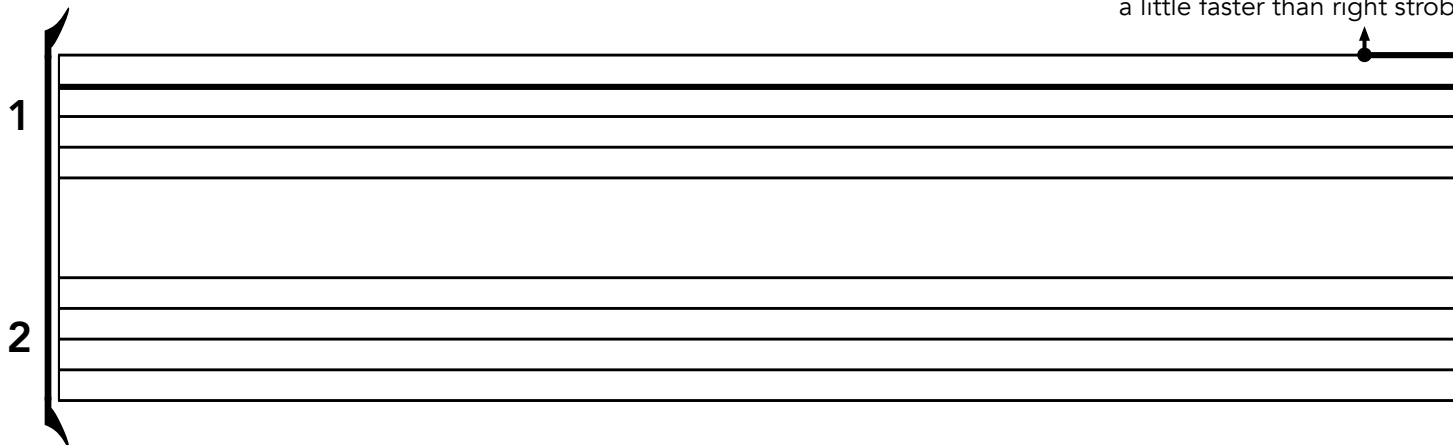
A musical staff with five lines. A thick black line is drawn across the staff. A dashed horizontal line is drawn above the staff, with the text "~ 84" written above it.

2

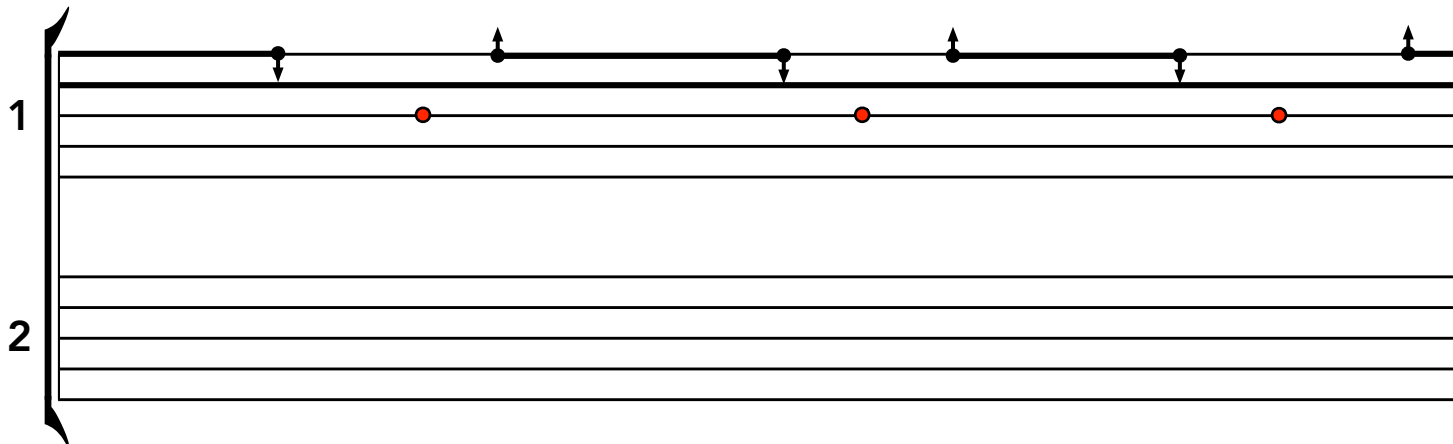
A musical staff with five lines, identical to staff 1.

1:00 1:05 1:10 1:15 1:20

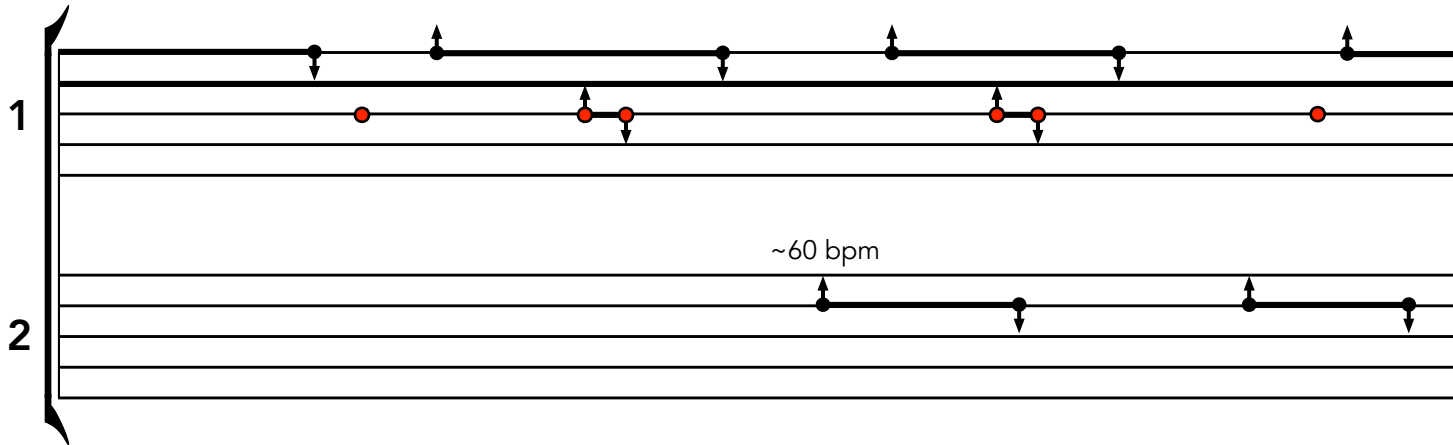
a little faster than right strobe



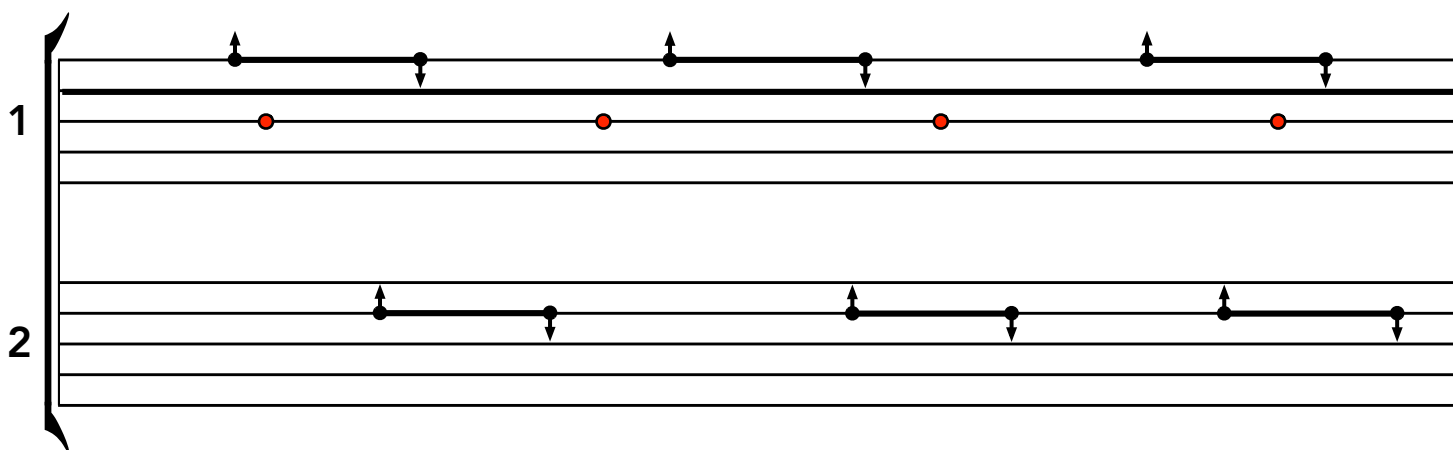
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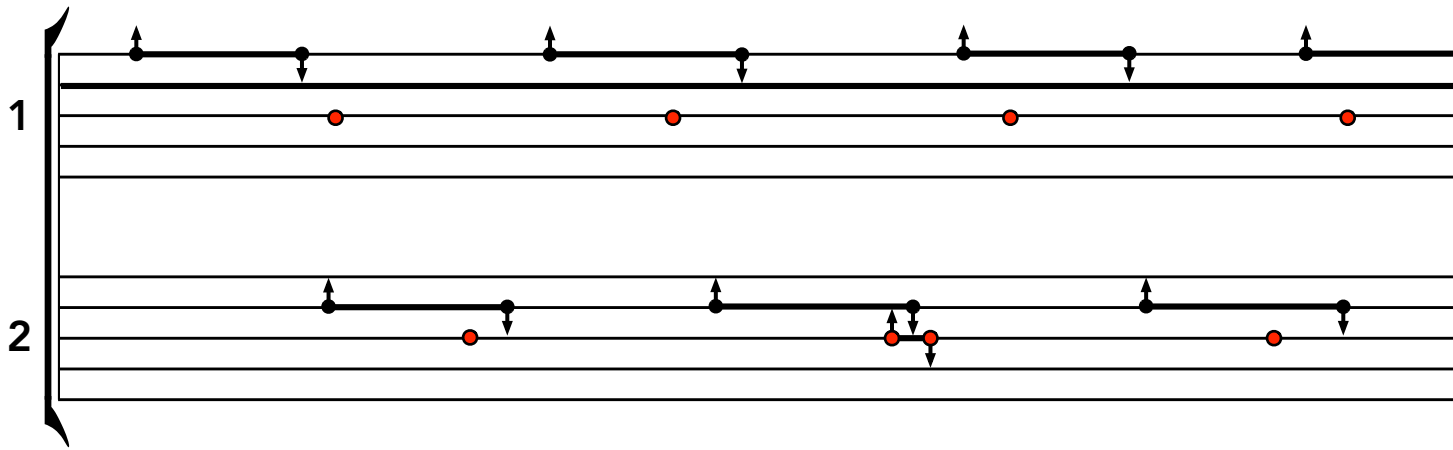
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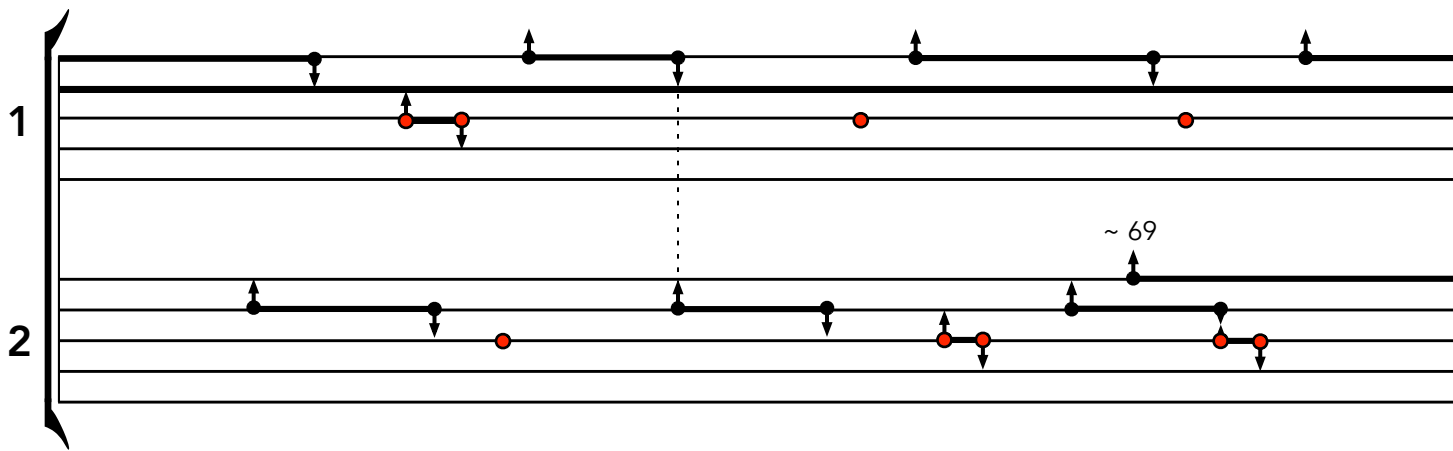
2:00 2:05 2:10 2:15 2:20



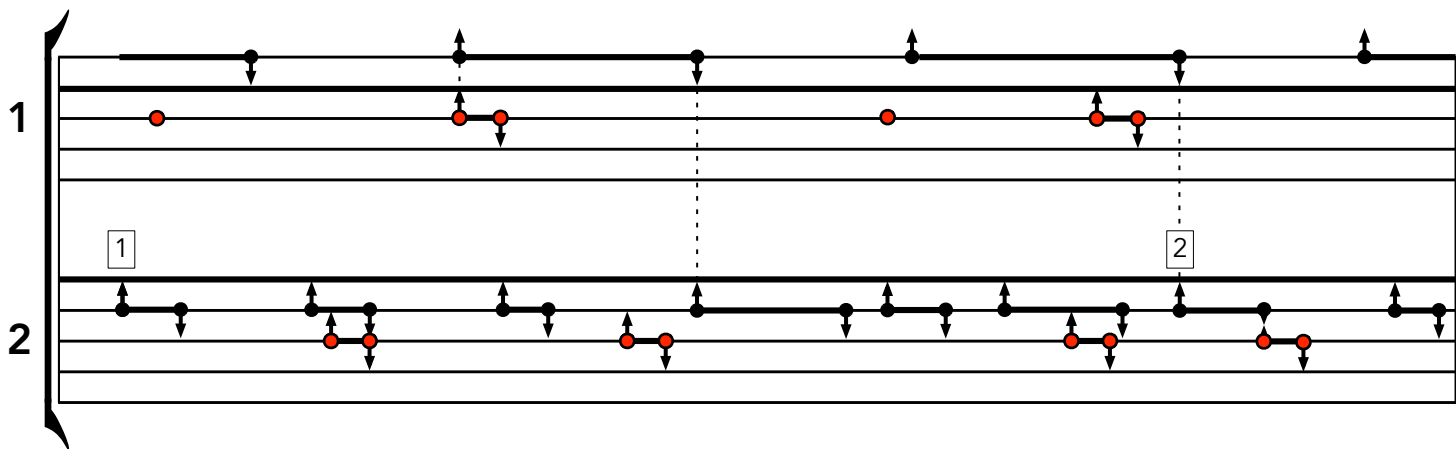
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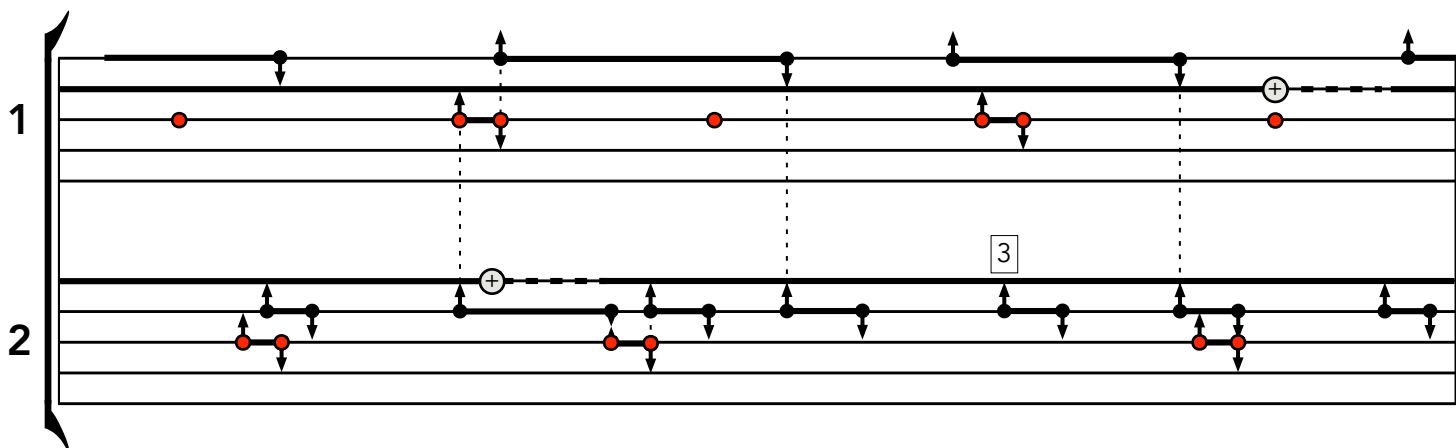
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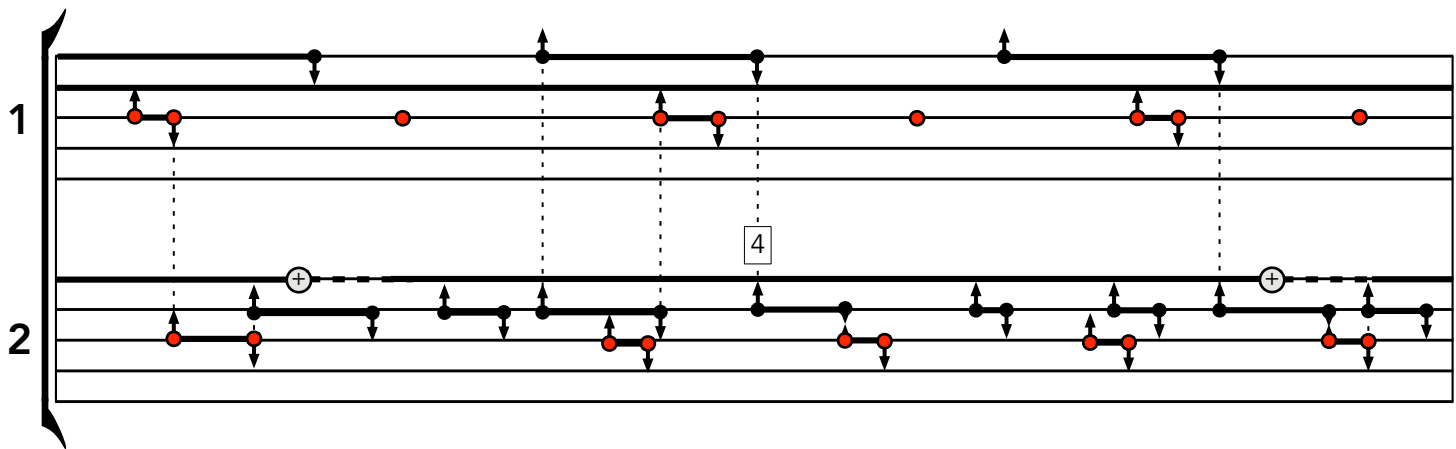
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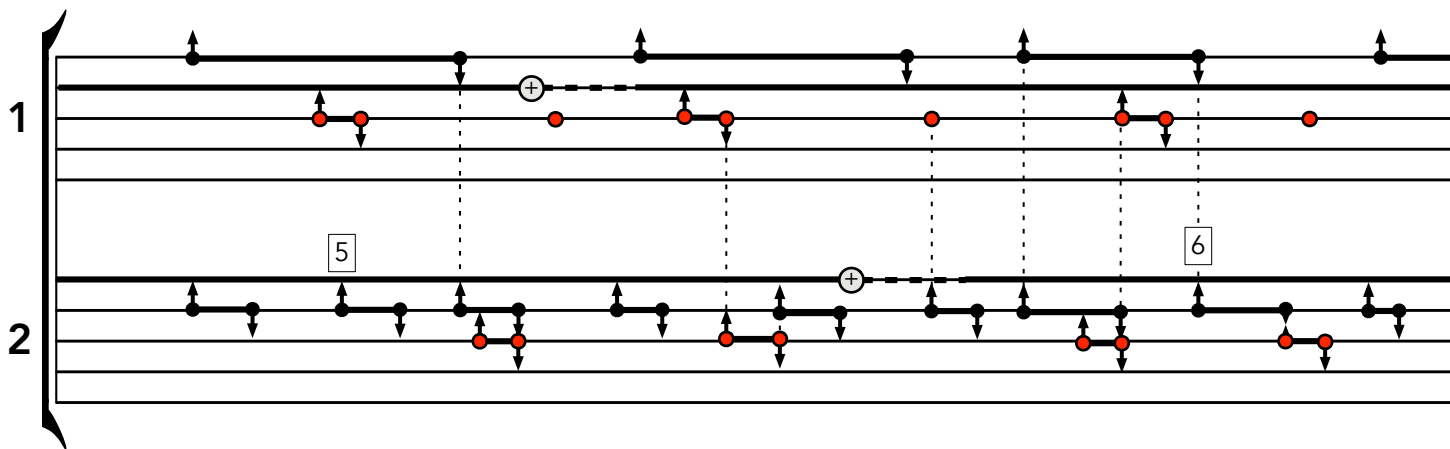
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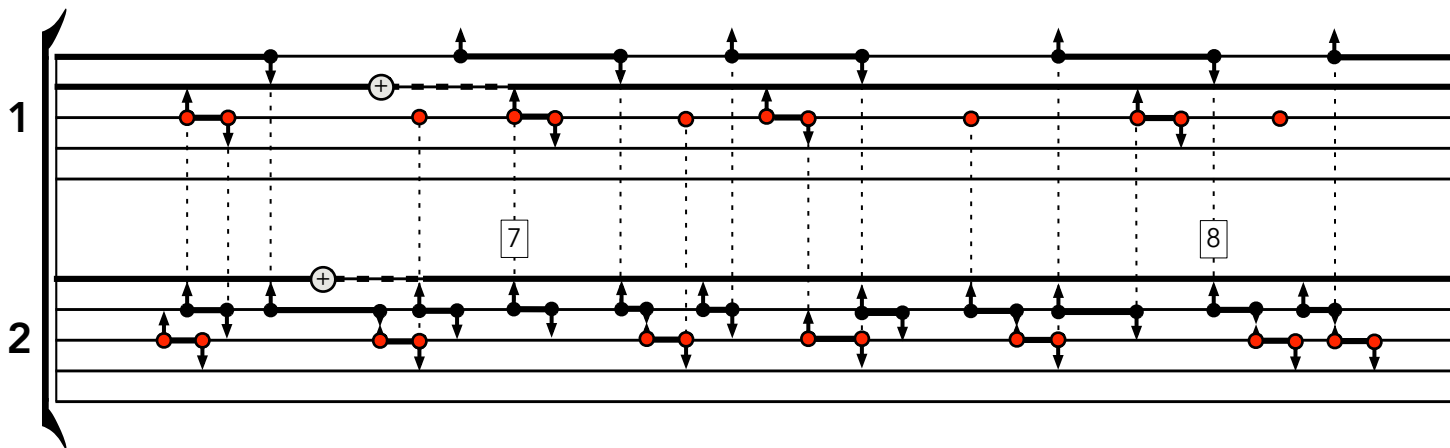
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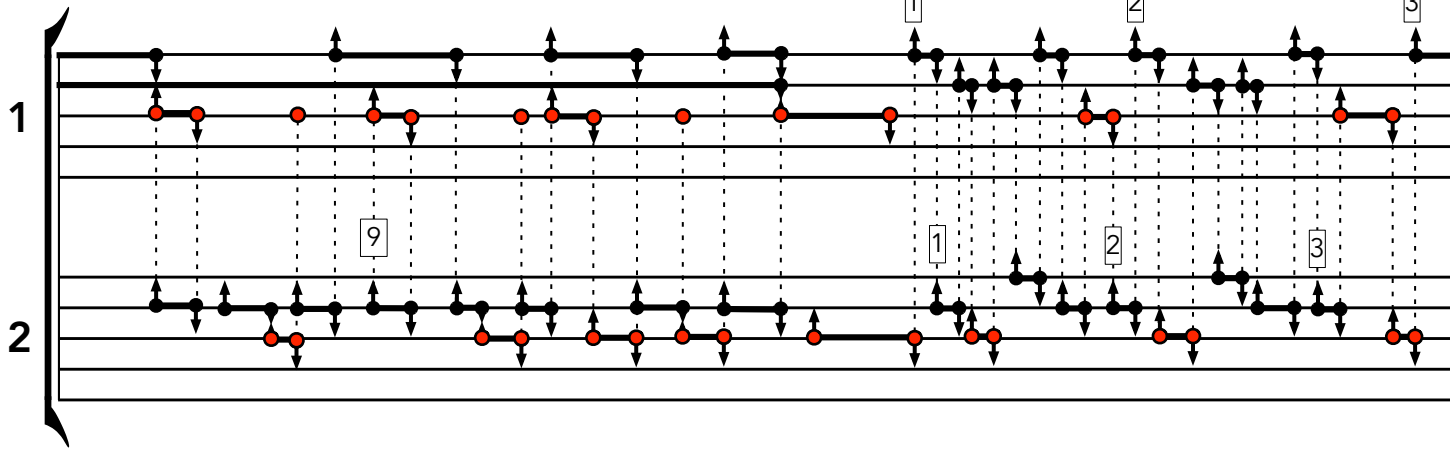
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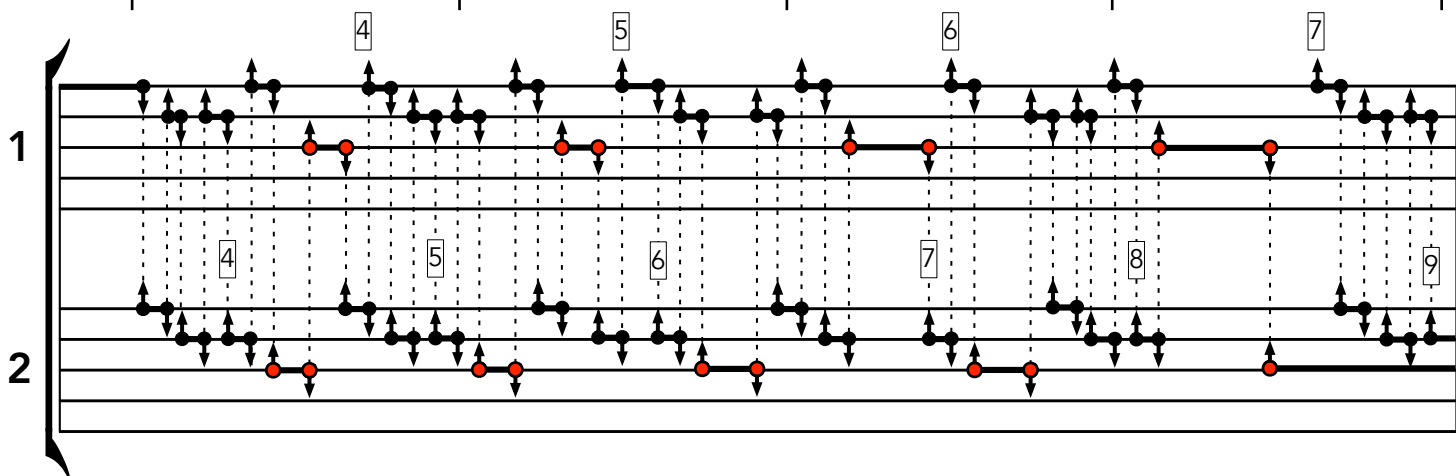
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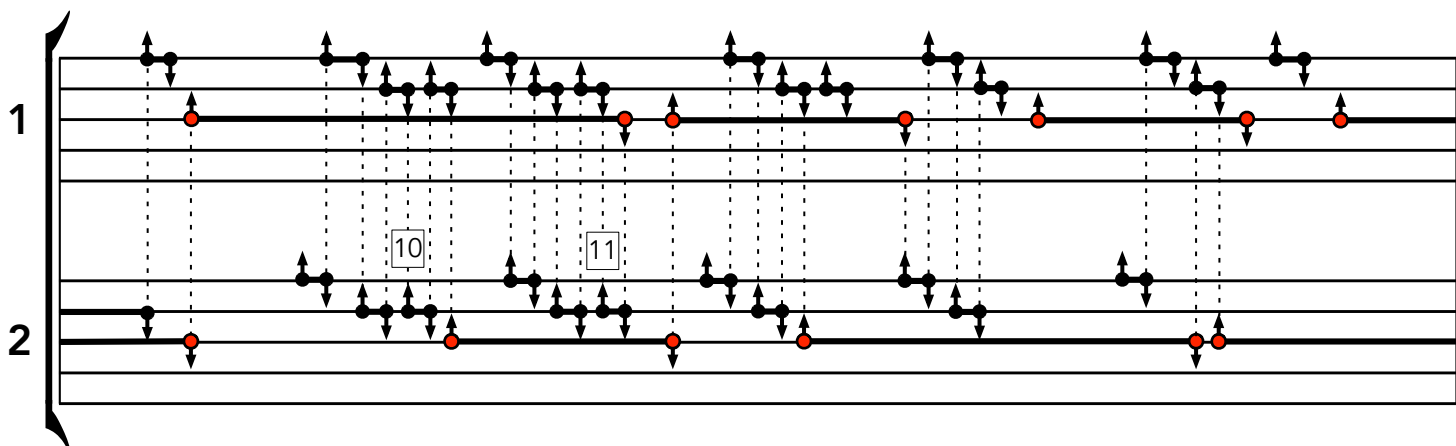
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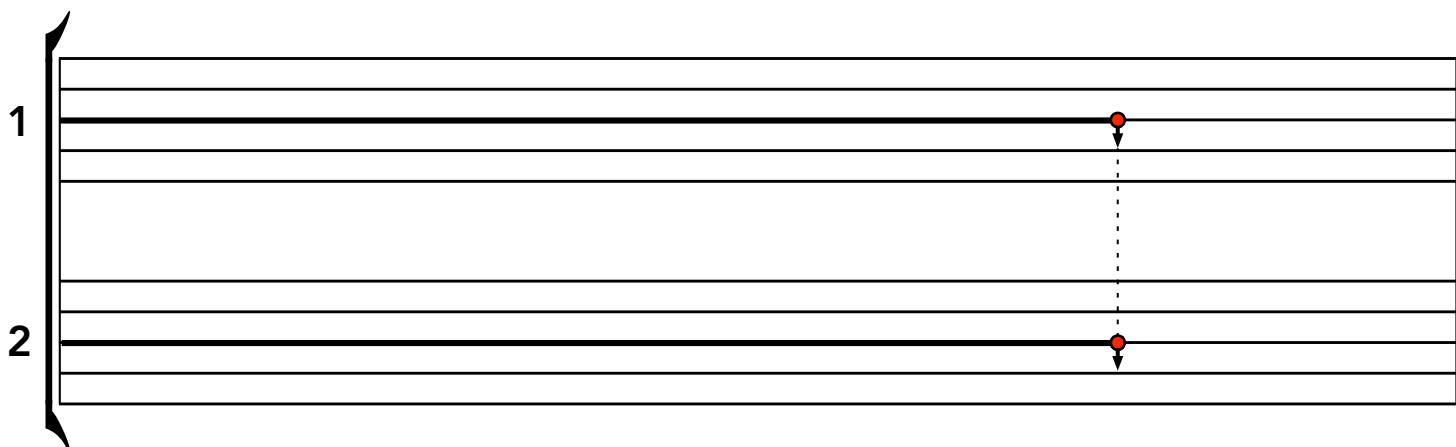
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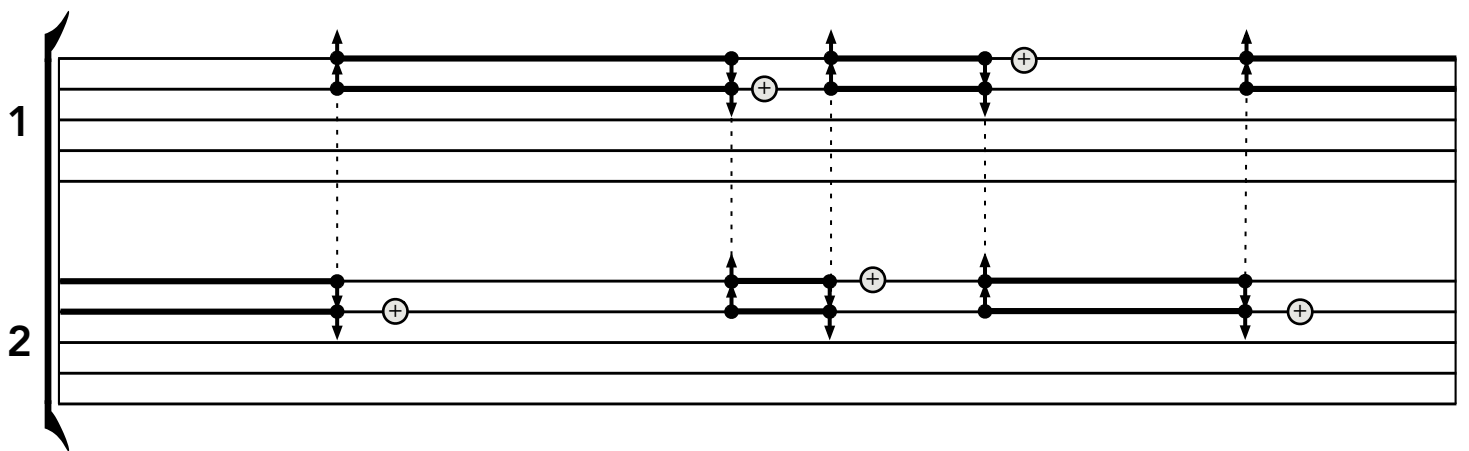
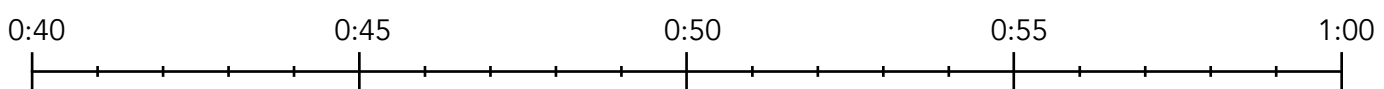
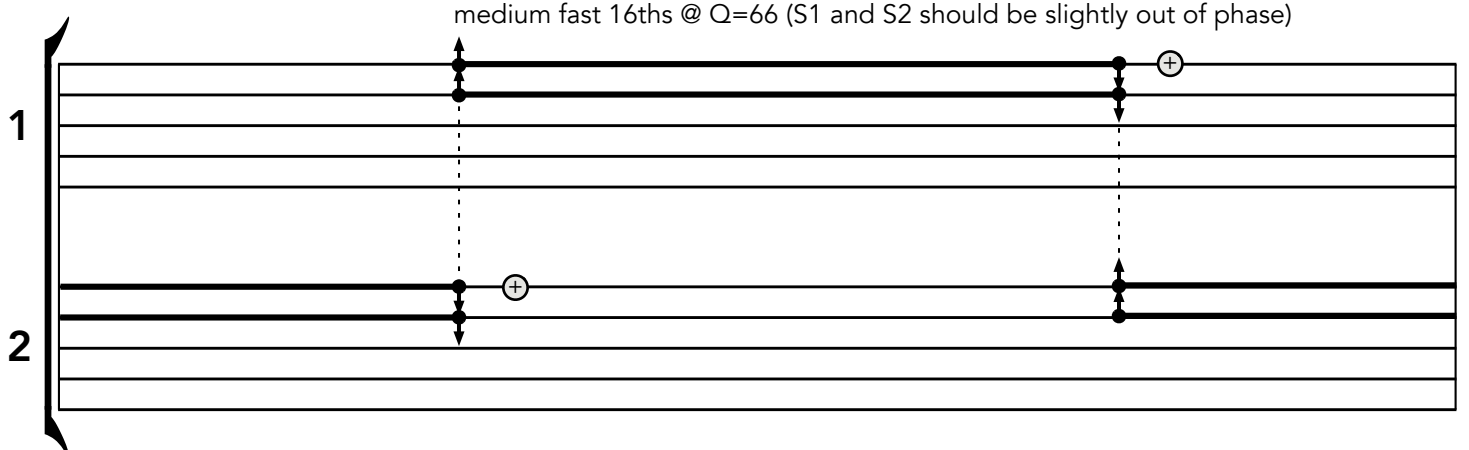
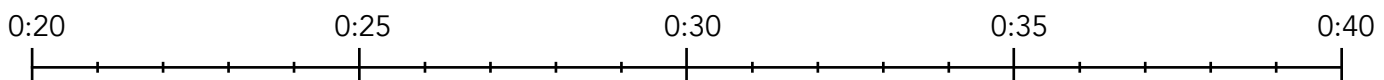
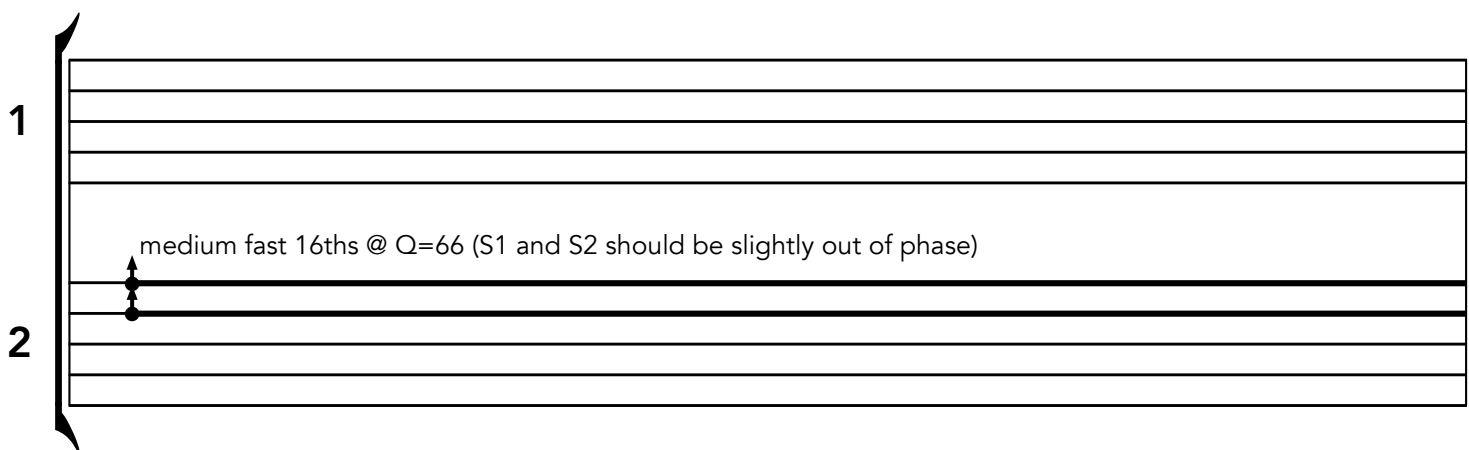
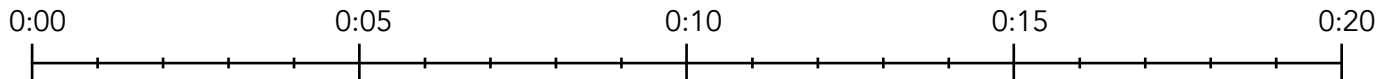
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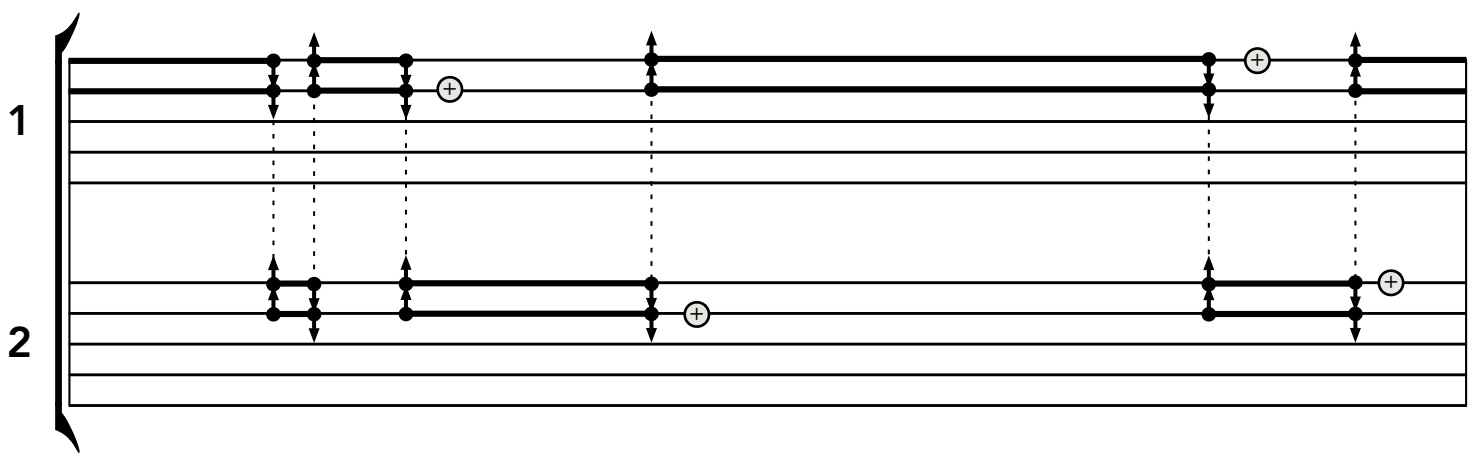
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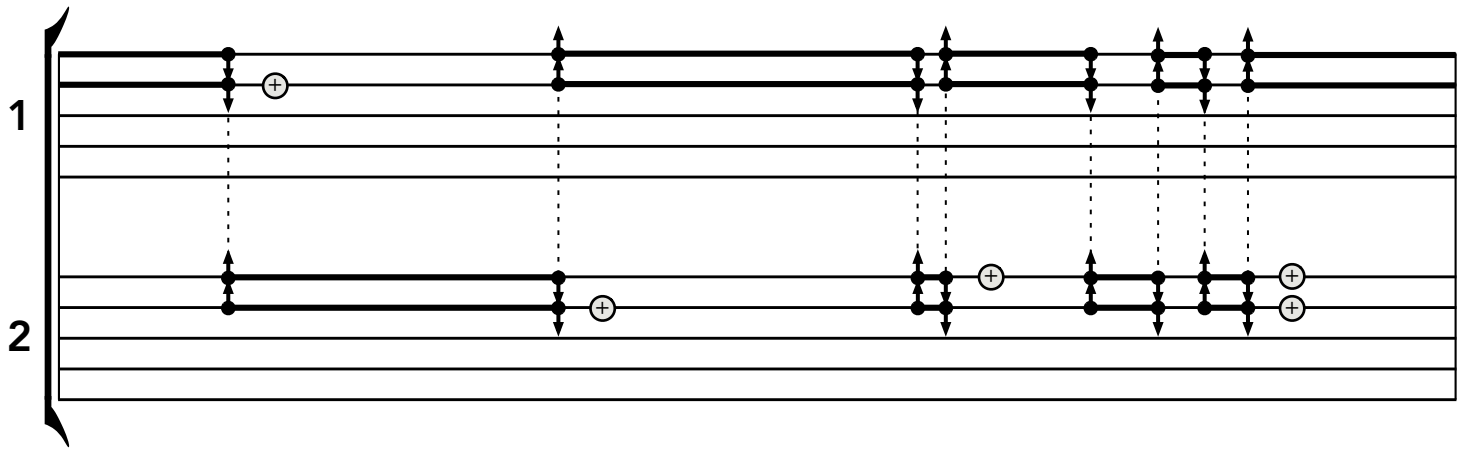
4. Switch Logic



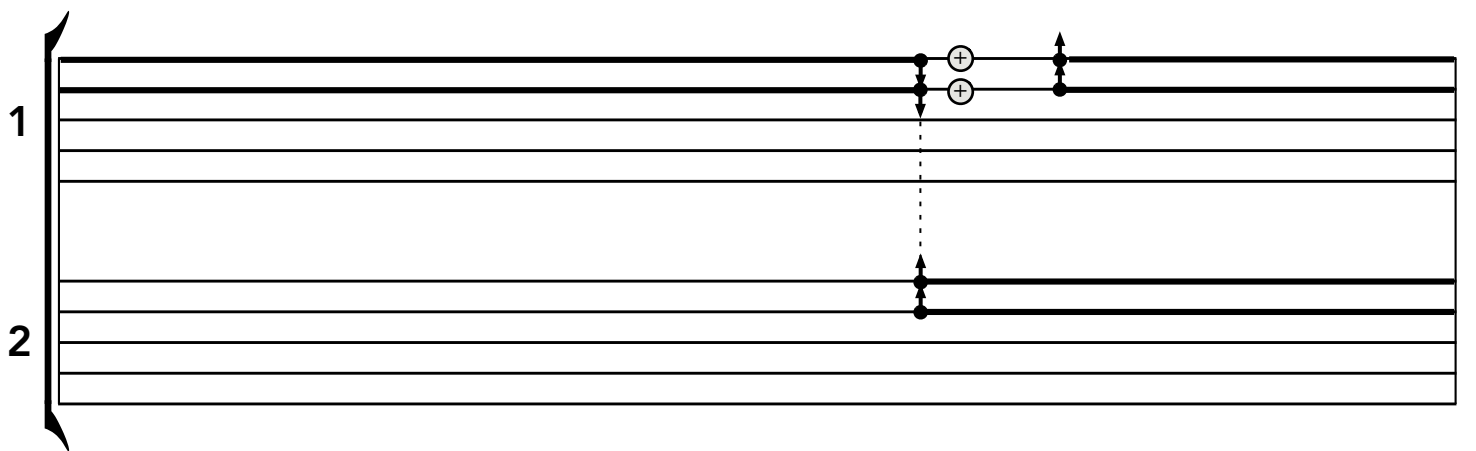
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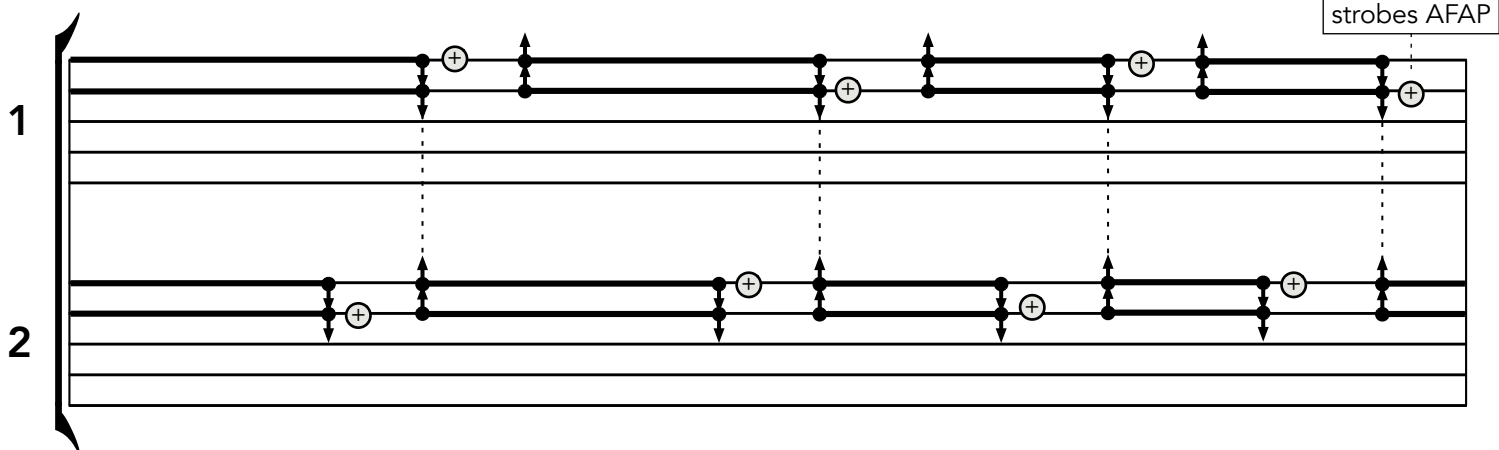
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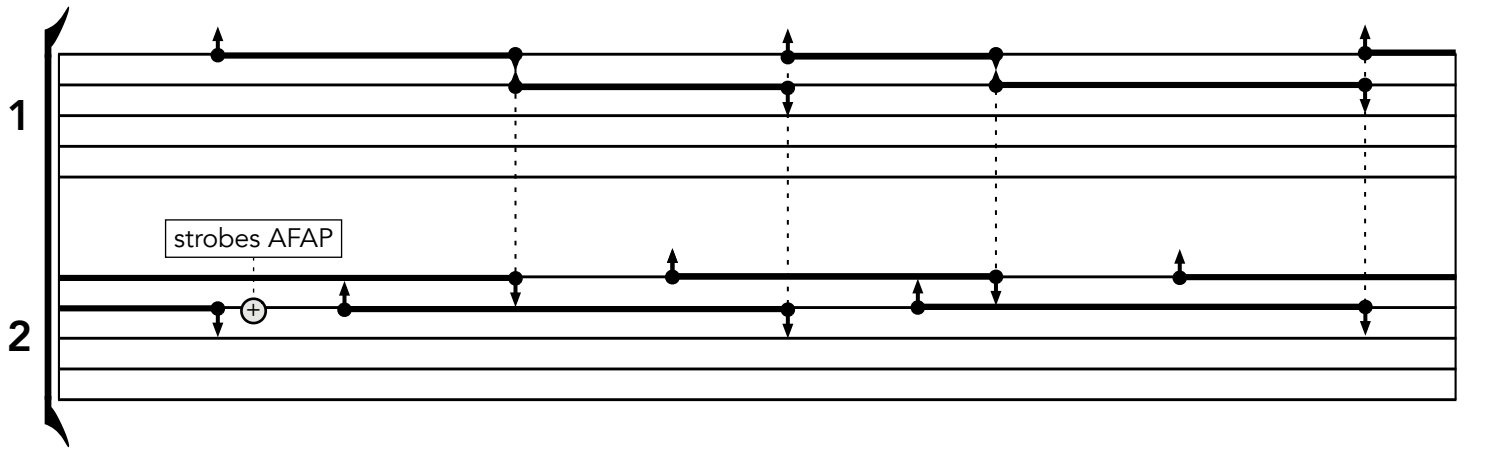
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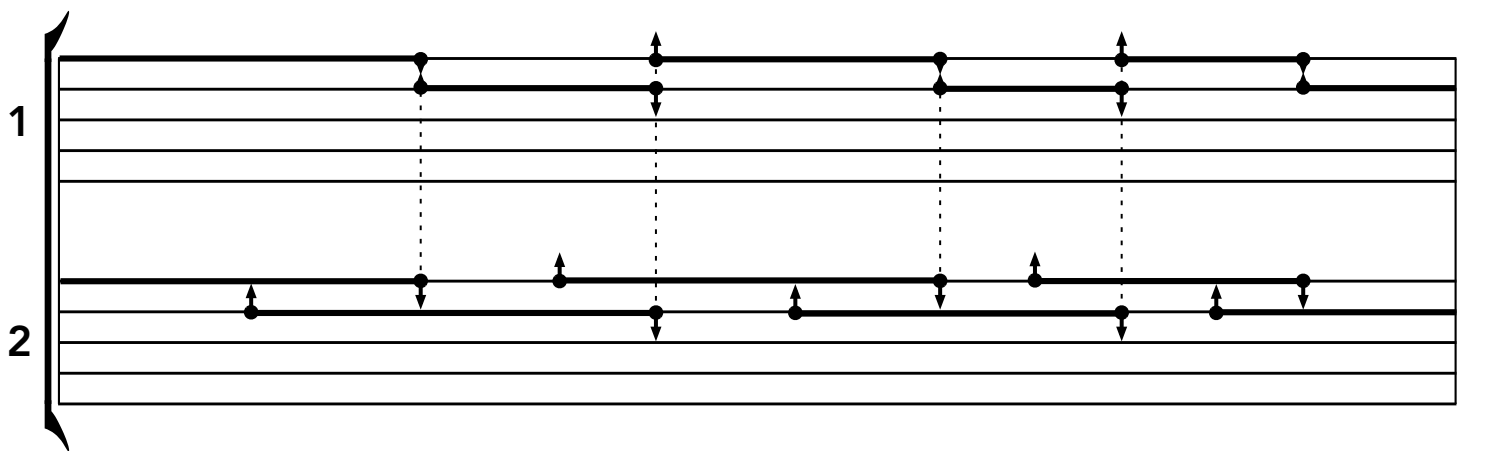
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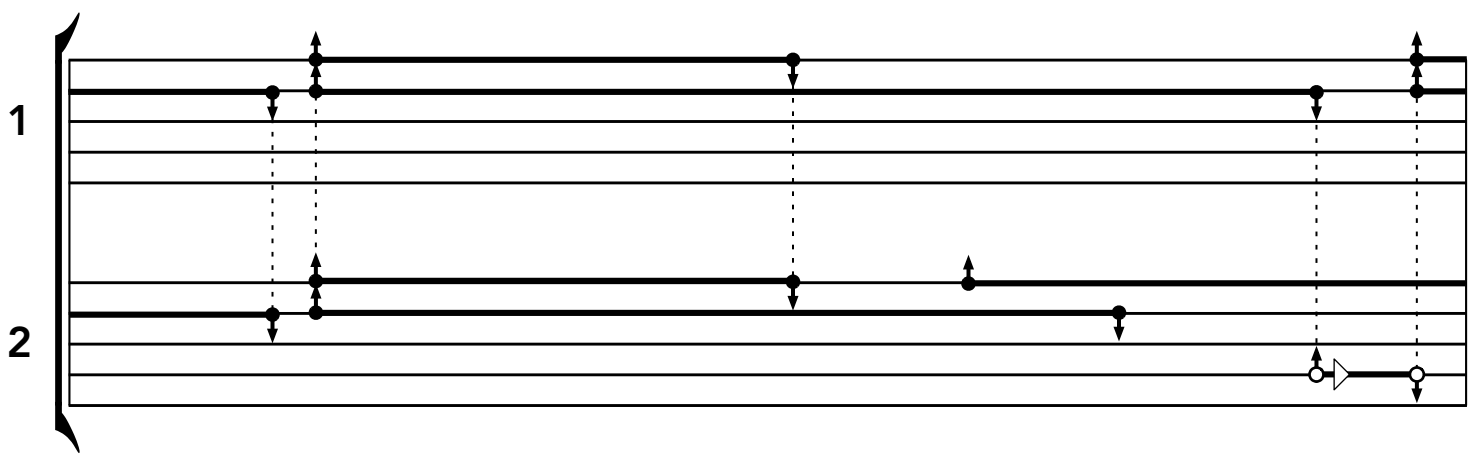
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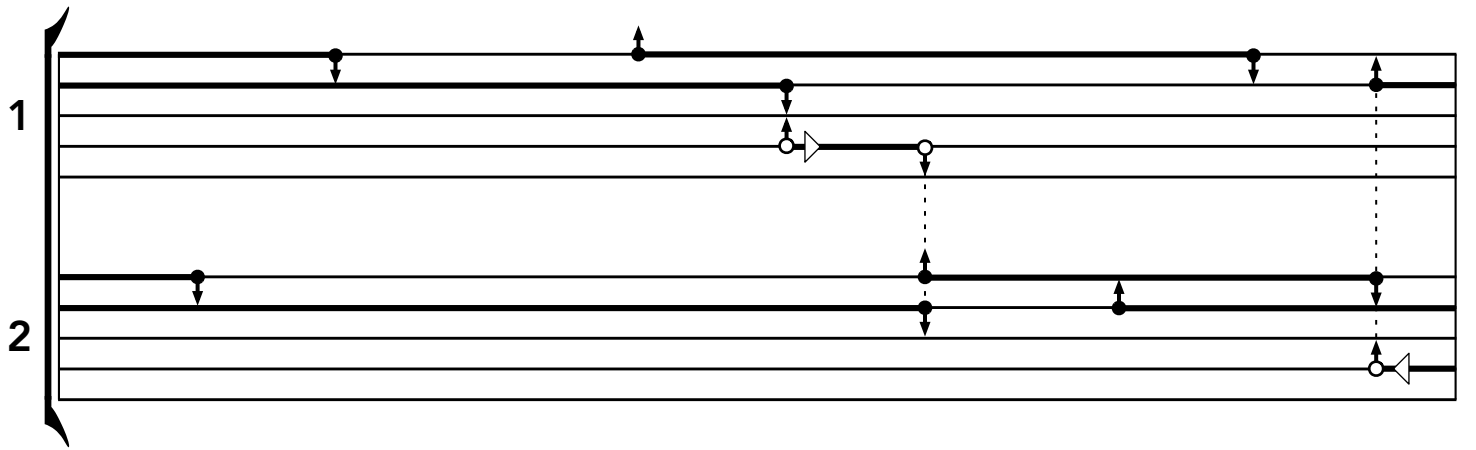
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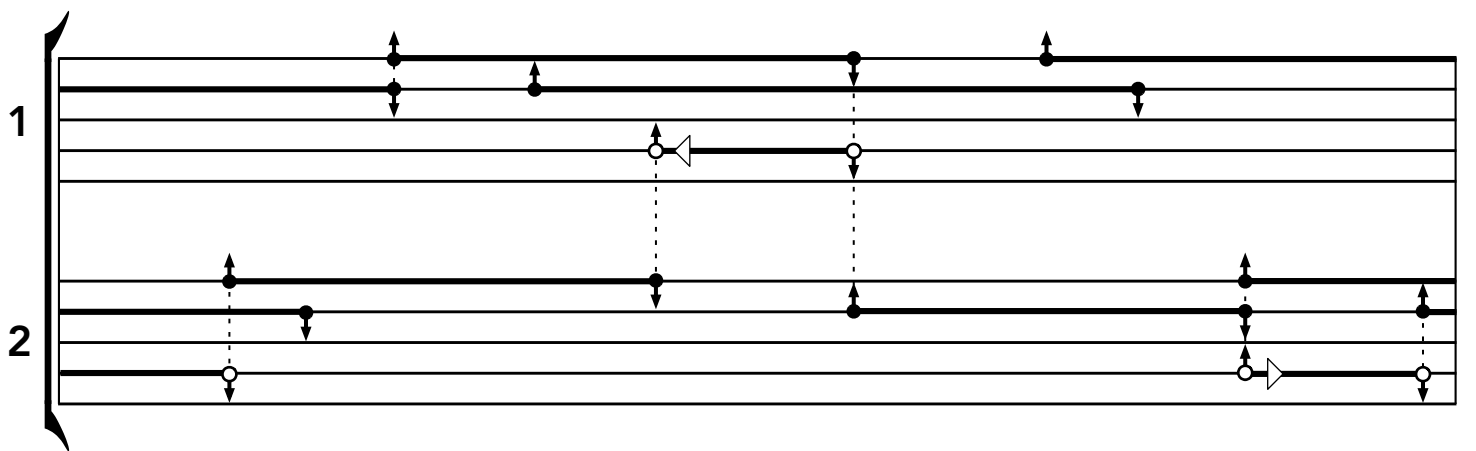
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3:20 3:25 3:30 3:35 3:40



3:40 3:45 3:50 3:55 4:00



4:00 4:05 4:10 4:15 4:20

1

2

4:20 4:25 4:30 4:35 4:40

1

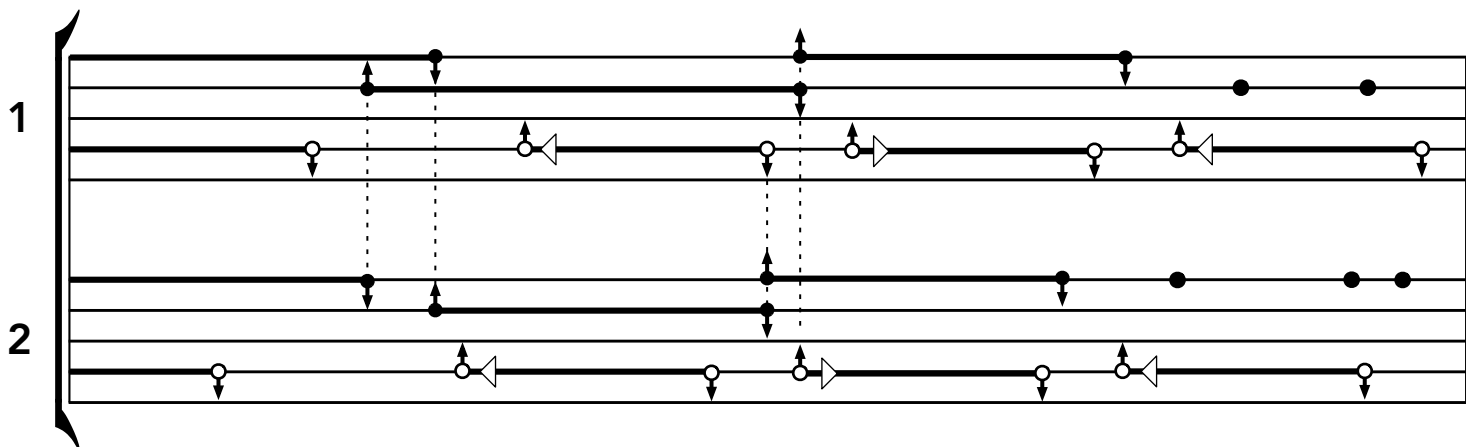
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4:40 4:45 4:50 4:55 5:00

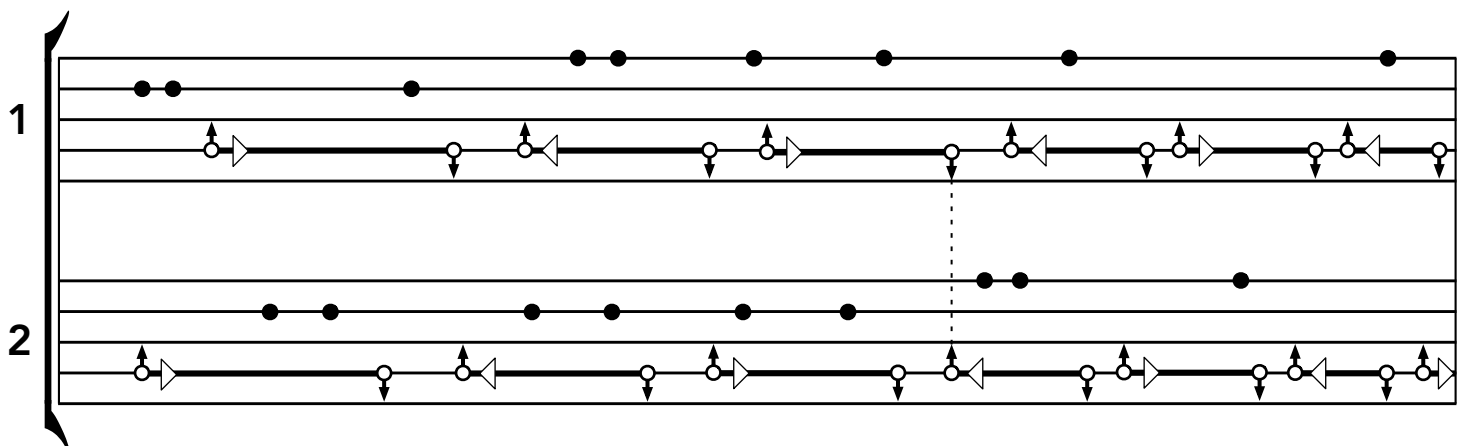
1

2

5:00 5:05 5:10 5:15 5:20



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