

CONDUCTING PATTERNS

Music directors help people sing together. They do this by showing the beat of a hymn through arm movements that follow certain patterns. The patterns are based on the number of beats per measure as shown by the top number of the time signature. The four most common beat patterns in conducting are the three-beat pattern, the four-beat pattern, the two-beat pattern, and the six-beat pattern.

Note: Every beat pattern illustration in this manual has small numbered circles that show where the beats actually occur in the pattern. Bounce your hand lightly at the circles to emphasize each beat. You will need to move slightly faster in some parts of the pattern to keep a steady rhythm.

Time signature	Number of beats per measure	Beat pattern
$\frac{3}{4}$	3	
$\frac{4}{4}$	4	
$\frac{2}{4}$	2	
$\frac{6}{8}$	6	