

The Florida Atlantic University MARCHING OWLS

*Marching and Procedures
Handbook 2013-2014*



THE FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
MARCHING OWLS

Marching Fundamentals

The following is an explanation of all marching fundamentals used by the Marching Owl Band, both in place and while in motion. The definition of these fundamentals is essential in establishing consistency of movement, spacing, and terminology. All movements are to be executed with snap, drive and precision; avoiding anticipation (early execution) or hesitation (late execution). The appearance of any marching band is dependent upon the degree to which each individual member masters its fundamentals.

A. IN-PLACE MOVEMENTS

1. Position of PARADE REST:

Band always falls in at parade rest. No command except Attention can be executed from parade Rest.

1. Arch of the right foot should remain on the yard line at all times.
2. Left foot 12 inches to the left of the right foot.
3. Right arm bent at the elbow--- arm stays in a straight line from elbow to fingertips. Right hand palm towards the rear, fingers and thumb joined, knuckles contact backbone at waistline.
4. Instrument position: All instruments (except sousaphones and percussion) held in left hand.
5. Instrument is held in left hand in front of the body, perpendicular to the ground.
(SAXOPHONES: left hand around middle of key section.)
6. **What To Watch For (WTWF):** Relative heights of instruments –make sure they are even. Watch all right angles. **Left arm stays tight and close to the body. Right thumb flush with the rest of the fingers.**

ATTENTION:

COMMAND: "Ten-Hut, Ten-Hut"

RESPONSE: "Ten-Hut, Hut Two"

Execution:

HUT- (Figure 1) Right hand snaps 12 inches to the right of the right hip, palm toward BODY, fingers and thumbs joined and extended. Head snaps down so chin is against the chest.

TWO- (Figure 2) Right hand snaps down from the shoulder not touching the side, middle finger along seam of pants. Do not slap thigh with right hand. Left heel snaps against the right heel with feet at approximately a 45-degree angle. Head snaps back up to straight position.

WTWF: Make sure only head and right arm move on Hut. Feet do not move until "TWO".

Figure 1

Figure 2

PARADE REST: from Attention

COMMAND: "Prade Rest, Parade Rest".

RESPONSE: "Prade-Rest, Hut, Two"

Execution:

Hut- (Figure 3) Right hand snaps 12 inches to the right of the right hip, palm toward REAR, fingers and thumbs joined and extended. Head snaps down so chin is against the chest.

Two- (Figure 4) Right arm bent at the elbow--- arm stays in a straight line from elbow to fingertips. Right hand palm towards the rear, fingers and thumb joined, knuckles contact backbone at waistline. Hand does not slap back. Left foot snaps to the side 12 inches to the left of the right foot.

(WTWF: Make sure that only the head and right arm move on Hut, and then the head on Two. Watch that horn carriage is still at 90 degrees and tight to the body)

Figure 3

Figure 4

LEFT FACE:

COMMAND: Left - Hace, Left - Hace

RESPONSE: Left – Hace (**and**) – Hut - Two – Three

Execution:

And- Dead count. Absolutely no movement.

Hut- Right foot forward 22 ½ inches. Heel of ground, weight on ball of foot.

Two- Turn Sharply to the left on the ball of the right foot, lift left foot slightly and replace it to the left of the yard line, keep left leg straight. **Do not twist left foot and ankle.**

Three- Snap right heel against left heel. Right arch should be on the yard line.

WTWF: Make sure right toe is pointed, make sure moves are sharp. Be careful not to bounce on two. Do not anticipate the following count.

RIGHT FACE:

COMMAND: Right - Hace, Right - Hace

RESPONSE: Right- Hace (**and**) – Hut - Two - Three

Execution:

And- Dead count. Absolutely no movement.

Hut- Left foot forward 22 ½ inches. Heel of ground, weight on ball of foot.

Two- Turn Sharply to the right on the ball of the left foot, lift right foot slightly and replace it with the arch on the yard line, keep right leg straight. **Do not twist right foot and ankle.**

Three- Snap right heel against right heel.

ABOUT FACE:

COMMAND: Bout - Hace, Bout - Hace

RESPONSE: Bout - Hace (**and**) – Hut - Two - Three

Execution:

And- Dead count. Absolutely no movement.

Hut- Right foot forward 22 ½ inches. Heel of ground, weight on ball of foot.

Two- Turn Sharply to the left 180 degrees on the ball of the right foot, lift left foot slightly and replace it to the left of the yard line, keep left leg straight. **Do not twist left foot and ankle.**

Three- Snap right heel against left heel. Right arch should be on the yard line.

WTWF: Make sure you pivot around completely, Recheck your position on the yard line. Make sure there is no bouncing. Watch that arms do not flail out. Snap right foot in with the ankle leading, not the knee.

HORNS UP:

COMMAND: Horns – Up, Horns – Up

RESPONSE: Horns – Hands - Up – (Rest)

Execution:

Horns- Thrust the left arm straight out in front of body. Keep the arm parallel and shoulder high.

Hands- Bring the right hand out to its proper playing position on the instrument.

Up- (Figure 5) Bring instruments to playing position **(30-45 degrees above horizon)**

(Rest)- One count of silence. No vocal command. Used to set embouchure.

WTWF- Make sure arm is completely extended forward with no bend at the elbow. Horn and arm should be perpendicular. No extraneous movement on the rest.

HANDS DOWN:

COMMAND: Hands - Down – Ready – Go

RESPONSE: Hands - Down

Execution:

Hands- Right hand snaps down into attention position.

Down- Left hand snaps instrument down to carrying position.

WTWF- Fingers on the right hand are back to flush (including the thumb), left arm snaps back to 90 degrees and is tight to the body

Figure 5

DRESS CENTER

COMMAND: Dress – Center – Dress

RESPONSE: Horns – Head

Execution:

Horns- Horns snap to playing position in one count, while rest of body stays at Attention.

Head- Head snaps to the left or right 45 degrees depending on direction of center-line.

WTWF: Make sure that you dress with the shoulders of the person on either side of you. Head snaps 45 degrees. No more, no less.

READY FRONT

COMMAND: Ready – (rest) – front

RESPONSE: Front

Execution:

Front- Head snaps to the front in attention position, while the horns remain in playing position

MARK TIME:

COMMAND: Mark – Time, Mark – Time

RESPONSE: Mark - Time - Mark – Lift

Execution:

Lift- Shift weight to the right foot and raise left foot lightly off the ground. Left foot should remain parallel to the ground. This sequence then alternates with the right foot as counts continue.

WTWF: - Feet are always parallel to the ground, make sure the entire foot lifts off the ground approximately one inch. Make sure that there is a slight sway in the hips NOT in the upper body. Limit upper body movement.

FORWARD MARCH

COMMAND: Fo – Ward, Fo – Ward

RESPONSE: Fo - Ward - March - Push and 1 Cross 2, 3...

Push- Thigh muscle is engaged and forward motion has begun. Feet remain in ski-line, NOT directly in front of each other. The toes are pointed upward and the heel is closest to the ground.

One- The left foot touches the ground directly in front of the right foot. The outside back edge of the foot should touch first allowing for a natural weight transfer to the front of the foot. Foot should roll forward on the outside edge of the foot.

Figure 6

Two- Steps continue using the 8 to 5 system, take 8 equal sized steps for every 5 yards traveled.

**WTWF: Hit yard line with the heel of the right foot.
No movement from the waist up. Do not bounce.
(Zip is right on 4, and snappy)**

LEFT FLANK (Slide, Figure 7)

COMMAND: Left – Flank, Left – Flank

RESPONSE: Left – Flank – Hut - Turn – Step

Execution:

Hut- Continue forward march on the left foot.

Turn- (Take a 22 1/2 inch step forward with the right foot. As you say TURN, place your left foot at a 45 degree angle keeping the weight evenly distributed.)

Step- Take a 22 1/2 inch step with your left foot in the new direction. Continue in this direction with forward march.

**WTWF: Make sure the first step in the new direction is a full-sized step.
(For slides the upper body remains in the old direction)**

RIGHT FLANK (Slide)

COMMAND: Right – Flank, Right – Flank

RESPONSE: Right – Flank – Hut - Turn – Step

Execution:

Hut- Continue forward march on the left foot.

Turn- (Take a 22 1/2 inch step forward with the right foot. As you say TURN, place your right foot at a 45 degree angle keeping the weight evenly distributed.)

Step- Take a 22 1/2 inch step with your left foot in the new direction. Continue in this direction with forward march.

WTWF: The left heel leads across the body as you turn. Make sure the first step in the new direction is a full-sized step.

SLIDE (Figure 7)

DRAG HALT

COMMAND: Drag - Halt, Drag – Halt

DRAG HALT

COMMAND: Drag - Halt, Drag – Halt

RESPONSE: Drag – Halt - Hut – Step – Stop – Hands – Down

Execution:

Step- (Figure 9) Right foot toe moves first into position. All motion stops, left foot remains behind you, weight over the right foot.

Figure 9

Stop- Snap the left foot to Attention position, dragging it over the ground.

Hands- Right hand snaps down into attention position.

Down- Left hand snaps instrument down to carrying position.)

BACKWARD MARCH

BACKWARD MARCH

COMMAND: Back – Ward, Back – Ward

RESPONSE: Back – Ward – March – Push and 1 Cross 2, 3

Execution: (can be performed from a stationary position, mark time, or forward march)

Push and- The right foot lifts up the body **on its platform** while the body weight shifts backward, the left foot begins to slide back.

Step- The left platform is placed 22 ½ inches behind the right foot on the ground. Leg remains straight with the ankles supple to absorb shock and keep the upper body still.

WTWF: (Knees much be bent slightly to keep the upper body movement smooth. ALWAYS STAY ON YOUR TOES. Do not roll down onto your heel. The natural tendency is to take a smaller step. Make sure the step size is 22 ½ inches.)

The natural tendency is to take a smaller step. Make sure the step size is 22 ½ inches.

Figure 10

DRAG TURN TO LEFT RIGHT OR ABOUT:

COMMAND: Drag Left (right) – Drag – Left (right)

RESPONSE: Drag Left (right) – Ready- Go – Turn- 2-3-4- Lock
OR

COMMAND: Drag - Bout, Drag- Bout

RESPONSE: Drag – Bout – Ready – Go – Turn – 2-3-4-5-6-7- 8 Lock

Execution: A turn that takes place that uses standard mark time to rotate body to the left or right 90-degrees or about 180-degrees to thee left.

BAND BOW

COMMAND: NONE (four whistles)

RESPONSE: Bow - 2 - 3 - 4, Up - 2 - 3 - 4

Bow 2,3,4: Slowly bend upper body forward 90 degrees

Up 2,3,4: Slowly bring upper body back to attention position.

WTWF: Don't arrive to final destination too quickly.

FLASH

Horns and heads are snapped 45 degrees upward from their normal playing position with the arms and shoulders.

HORNS TO THE PRESS BOX

A combination of flash and the horns to the drum major position. Lower body stays still. Recovery of this move is back to attention position.

OBLIQUES

Usually done on a 45 degree angle with eight 30" steps or twelve steps to cover 5 yards. Awareness of the halfway point is essential to keeping alignment.

STEP ONES (TWOS, FOURS, ETC)

A sequential movement, stepping off every count, every 2 counts or every 4.

DROPS

A drop off movement starting from either the right or left side of a row. Entire row steps off together with each member stopping on successive odd counts (i.e. 1, 3, 5, 7) or even counts (i.e. 2, 4, 6, 8).

CLOSE

The entire marching unit moves directly to a predetermined destination and marks time upon arrival.

GATHER

Each member marks time until "picked up" from the rear, then step off together.

ADJUSTED STEP

Adjusted step is determined by the distance to be covered in a given number of steps. Awareness of the halfway point is essential in determining the size of the step. Step size may not be the same for all members within a marching unit.

HORNS TO THE DRUM MAJOR

Upper body snaps in the direction of the drum major. Angle of snap should never exceed 45-degrees. (Figure 11)

Lower body stays facing old direction.

DRILL

Rehearsal Procedures

1. March the phrase. Take one step in the new direction.
2. Play the phrase.
3. March and play the phrase.
4. Continue to perform up and be aware of the people around you; do not look at markers while marching.
5. Use markers to check the set quickly.
6. **IMPORTANT:** If transition ends in a halt. The last step should be taken with a pointed toe.

WTWF: Have students look up as they march. Performers guide the form and spacing. They should not march to a position. When they arrive, stop to check the form, then adjust to the correct coordinate. Accurate marching requires the correct step size and step direction by each performer.