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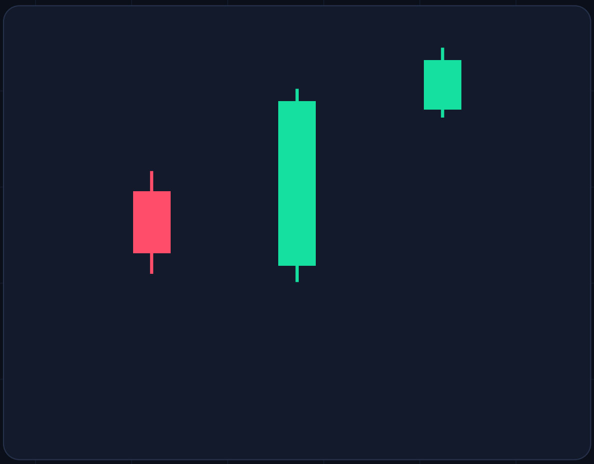
Candlestick Patterns Cheat Sheet

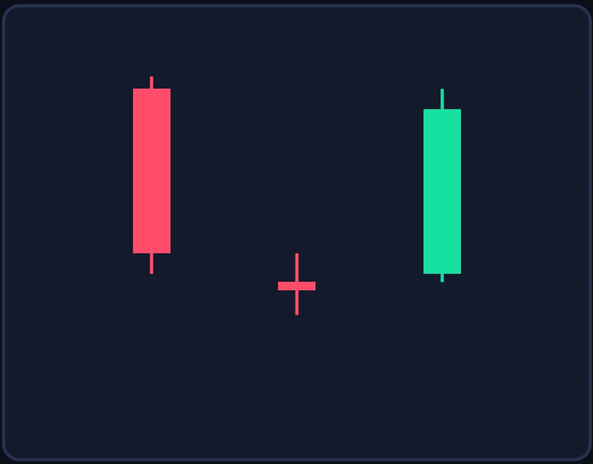
40 patterns · what each one means · how Smart Money traders read it

Single-candle, two-candle, three-candle and continuation patterns, drawn to scale, with a one-line meaning and the Smart Money Concepts context — the sweep, the order block, the imbalance — that turns a shape into a setup.

A pattern is a shape. A setup is a shape at a level, in a session, with a stop.
Use the patterns to time entries at the structure your chart already shows.



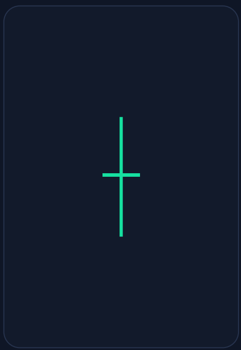
Three Outside Up



Morning Star

SINGLE-CANDLE PATTERNS

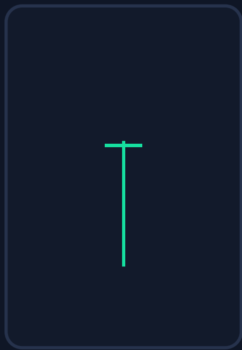
Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.



Doji

NEUTRAL / INDECISION

Open ≈ close. Alone it is a pause; at a level after a sweep it is the first sign the aggressor is exhausted.



Dragonfly Doji

BULLISH AT SUPPORT

Long lower wick, no body. Sellers pushed down and lost the whole move — the shape of a liquidity sweep.

Gravestone Doji

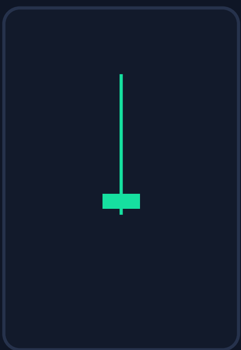
BEARISH AT RESISTANCE

Long upper wick, no body. Buyers were rejected at the highs — often the wick that takes stops above equal highs.

Hammer

BULLISH REVERSAL

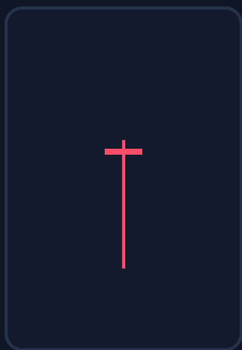
Small body at the top, lower wick 2× the body. Only meaningful after a decline and at a demand zone.



Inverted Hammer

BULLISH REVERSAL (CONFIRM)

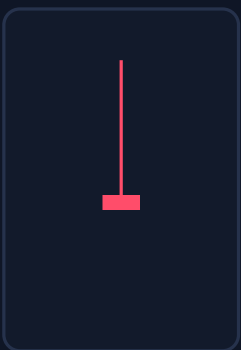
Upper wick after a decline. Weak on its own; strong when the next candle closes above it.



Hanging Man

BEARISH REVERSAL

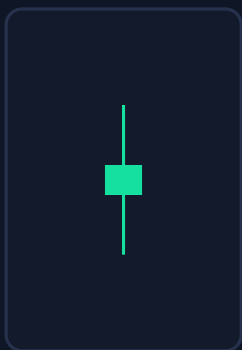
Same shape as a hammer but after a rally. The lower wick shows sellers are present; confirm with the next close.



Shooting Star

BEARISH REVERSAL

Small body at the bottom, long upper wick after a rally — the visual of a failed breakout / stop run above highs.



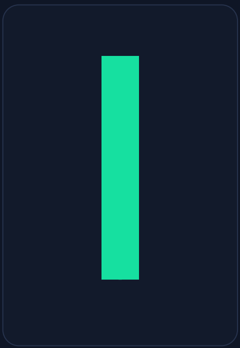
Spinning Top

INDECISION

Small body, wicks both sides. Momentum fading; wait for the break of its range.

SINGLE-CANDLE PATTERNS

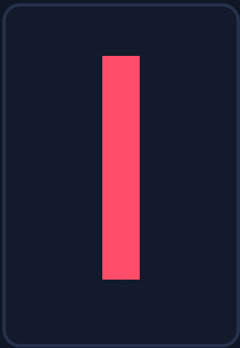
Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.



Bullish Marubozu

STRONG BUYING

Full body, no wicks. Displacement: the candle that often creates a fair value gap and an order block behind it.



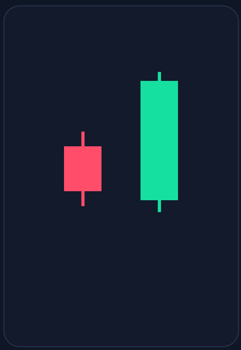
Bearish Marubozu

STRONG SELLING

Full-bodied down candle. Same displacement logic, downward.

TWO-CANDLE PATTERNS

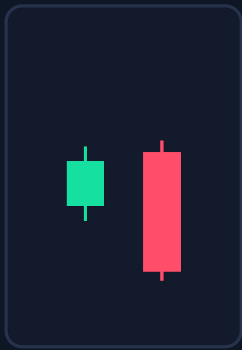
Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.



Bullish Engulfing

BULLISH REVERSAL

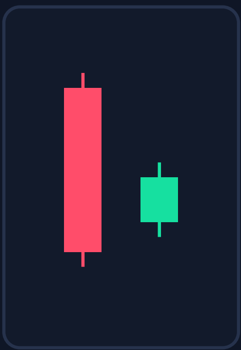
Second candle's body engulfs the first. The strongest two-bar reversal; the engulfing candle is often the order block.



Bearish Engulfing

BEARISH REVERSAL

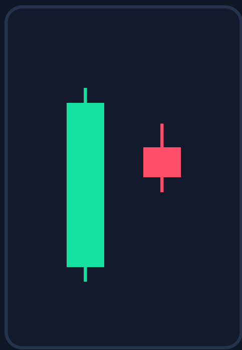
Mirror image at a high. Look for it after equal highs are swept.



Bullish Harami

BULLISH REVERSAL (WEAK)

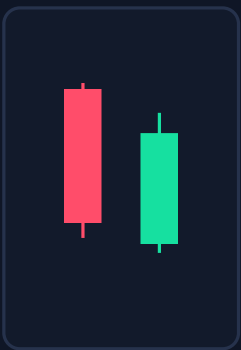
Small candle inside the prior large one. Pause after selling; needs a close above the big candle's open.



Bearish Harami

BEARISH REVERSAL (WEAK)

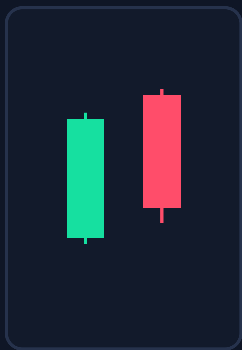
Small candle inside a large up candle. Pause after buying; confirm with the next close.



Piercing Line

BULLISH REVERSAL

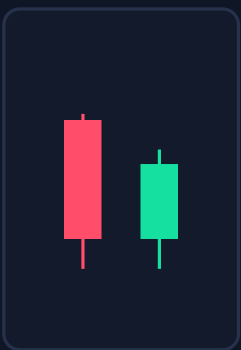
Down candle, then an up candle that opens below its low and closes above its midpoint.



Dark Cloud Cover

BEARISH REVERSAL

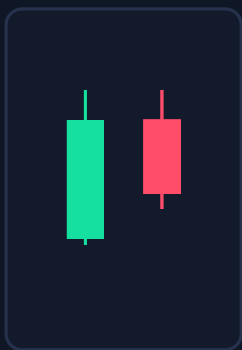
Up candle, then a down candle that opens above its high and closes below its midpoint.



Tweezer Bottom

BULLISH REVERSAL

Two candles with matching lows. Two attempts to break a level, both rejected — the level is defended.



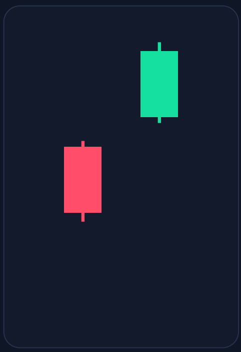
Tweezer Top

BEARISH REVERSAL

Matching highs. Twice rejected at the same price; a common shape at the end of a liquidity sweep.

TWO-CANDLE PATTERNS

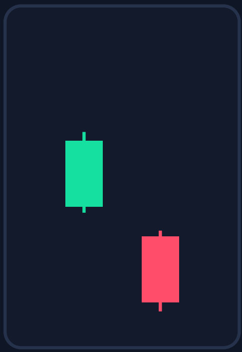
Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.



Bullish Kicker

BULLISH REVERSAL (STRONG)

Gap up after a down candle with no overlap. Rare; institutional repricing after news.



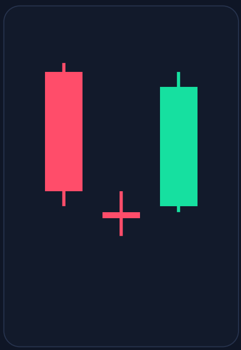
Bearish Kicker

BEARISH REVERSAL (STRONG)

Gap down after an up candle with no overlap.

THREE-CANDLE PATTERNS

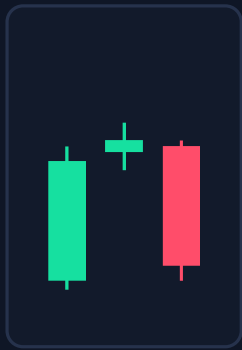
Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.



Morning Star

BULLISH REVERSAL

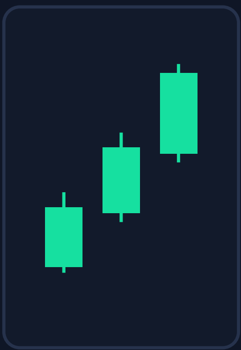
Big down, small pause (ideally gapped), big up. A three-bar change of character.



Evening Star

BEARISH REVERSAL

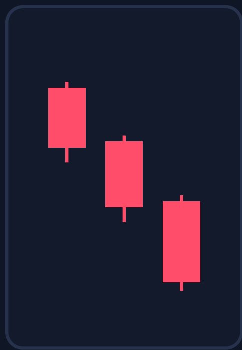
Big up, small pause, big down at a high.



Three White Soldiers

BULLISH CONTINUATION

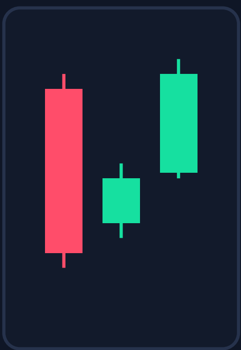
Three consecutive up closes with small wicks. Sustained buying; often the impulse leg of a new structure.



Three Black Crows

BEARISH

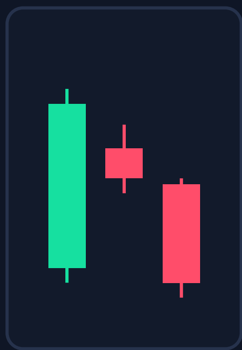
Three consecutive down closes. Mirror of the soldiers.



Three Inside Up

BULLISH REVERSAL

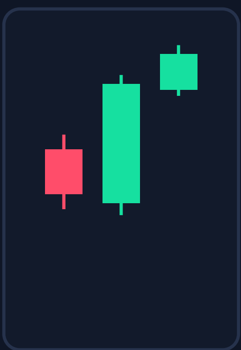
Bullish harami plus a third candle closing above the first candle's open — the harami confirmed.



Three Inside Down

BEARISH REVERSAL

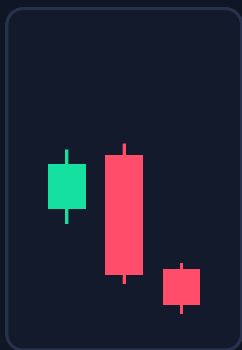
Bearish harami confirmed by a third close below the first candle's open.



Three Outside Up

BULLISH REVERSAL

Bullish engulfing plus a third up close. Engulfing confirmed.



Three Outside Down

BEARISH REVERSAL

Bearish engulfing confirmed by a third down close.

THREE-CANDLE PATTERNS

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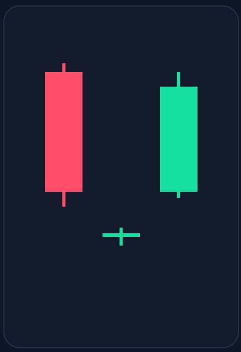
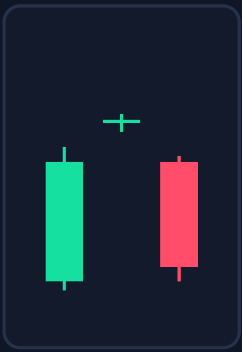


Bullish Abandoned Baby

BULLISH REVERSAL (RARE)

Morning star with a doji gapped away on both sides. Very rare in liquid forex; more common in stocks.



Bearish Abandoned Baby

BEARISH REVERSAL (RARE)

Evening star with an isolated doji.

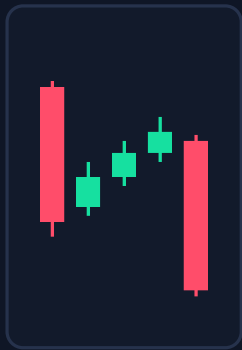
CONTINUATION PATTERNS

Green = bullish candle, red = bearish. Candles are drawn to relative scale. Context beats shape — see the notes.

Rising Three Methods

BULLISH CONTINUATION

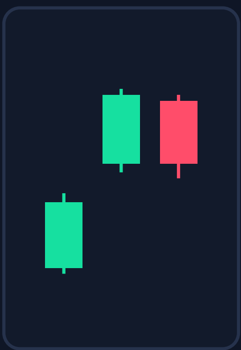
Big up, three small pullback candles inside its range, big up. The pullback holds the order block.



Falling Three Methods

BEARISH CONTINUATION

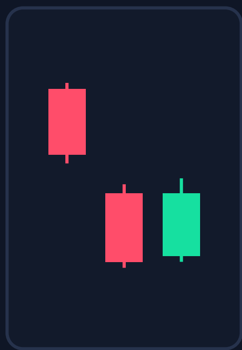
Mirror image in a downtrend.



Upside Tasuki Gap

BULLISH CONTINUATION

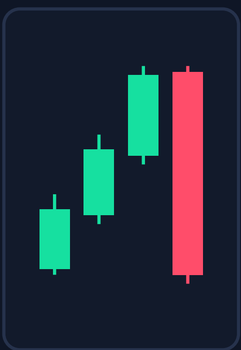
Gap up, then a down candle that does not close the gap. The gap is a fair value gap that holds.



Downside Tasuki Gap

BEARISH CONTINUATION

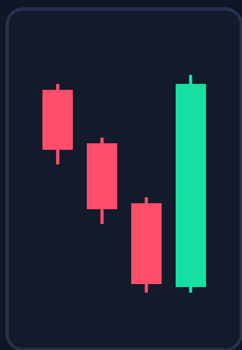
Gap down that a bounce fails to close.



Bullish Three-Line Strike

BULLISH CONTINUATION

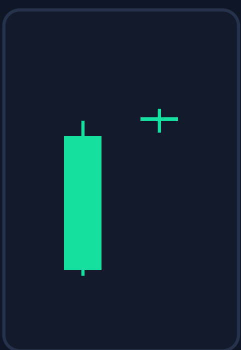
Three up candles, then one large down candle that wipes them out — and the trend often resumes. A three-bar sweep.



Bearish Three-Line Strike

BEARISH CONTINUATION

Three down candles erased by one up candle; the downtrend often resumes.



Doji Star

PAUSE / REVERSAL

A doji gapped above (or below) a strong candle. The pause before either continuation or the star patterns.

The five rules that make patterns work

Patterns are the timing tool; structure is the reason for the trade.

1. Context first

A hammer in the middle of a range is noise; a hammer at a demand zone after a sweep of the lows is a signal. Mark the structure — order blocks, liquidity, imbalances — before you look for shapes.

2. Session and timeframe

Reversal patterns on the 1-minute chart at 3 am are not the same as on the 4-hour chart in the London session. Higher timeframe, liquid session, more weight.

3. Confirmation

Single candles need the next close in their direction; engulfing and three-candle patterns carry their own confirmation. Never enter on a wick.

4. The stop is the pattern's extreme

Below the hammer's low, above the shooting star's high, beyond the engulfing candle. If that stop does not fit your risk, the pattern is too large for the trade.

5. Log fifty

A pattern is only "reliable" in your market and timeframe after fifty logged trades. Everything above is a starting point, not a statistic.

Next: mark the structure automatically with the free Smart Money indicators
quantum-algo.com/free-indicators/

Full guides: candlestick patterns · doji · hammer · shooting star · engulfing · liquidity sweeps — quantum-algo.com/blog/gui