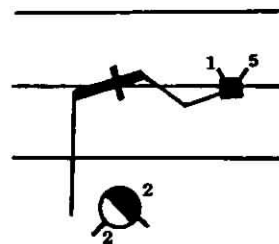
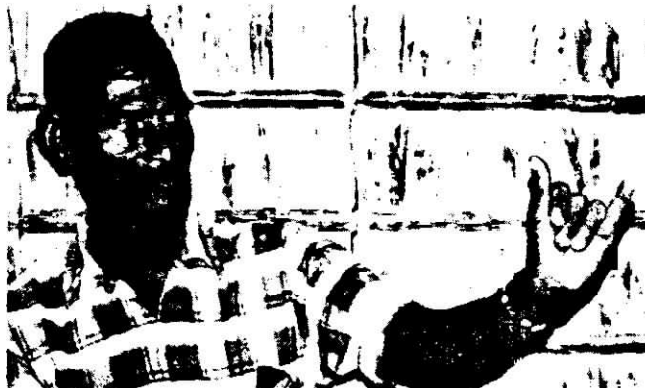


SUTTON MOVEMENT SHORTHAND

EXAMPLES
OF
NOTATION
OF A
SOUTH-PACIFIC
SIGN LANGUAGE



by

VALERIE SUTTON

This booklet shows samples of how a sign language can be notated in Sutton Movement Shorthand.

For a more complete introduction to the system, a self-teaching basic textbook, supplements and notating aids are available from the Movement Shorthand Society.

THE MOVEMENT SHORTHAND SOCIETY PRESS

P.O. Box 7344, Newport Beach,
California, 92660, U.S.A.
Telephone (714) 644-8342



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The shoulders are placed on the fourth line of the Staff when the figure stands straight.

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The torso area is in between the hips and shoulders of the figure at all times.

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Little numbers are placed beside the Position Symbols stating how the limbs are rotated in the joints.

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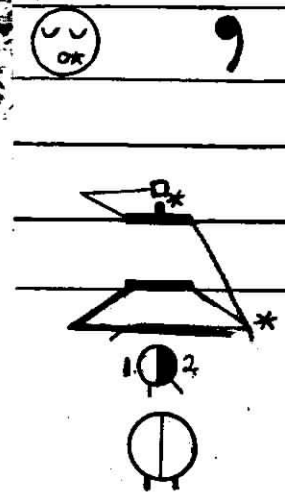
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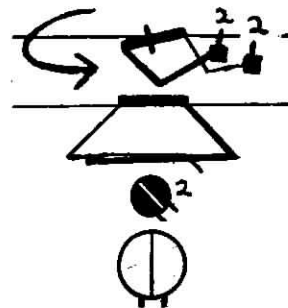
TO DRINK (binu)



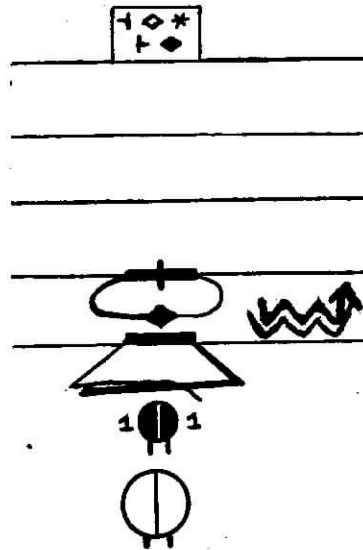
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BROTHER-SISTER RELATIONSHIP
(tau tuhahine)



The shoulder line of the figure is slanted so that it appears to be facing the front corner. A Twisting Arrow to the left notates the twist in the torso. The hands are fists. One finger juts out of each fist. The finger's number is placed beside the finger. The center line of the figure is drawn down the middle of the Position Symbols. If there is no number on a side of a Position Symbol this means the limb is turned-out. The number 2 means the limb is natural (palm down).



FULL UP AFTER EATING (maakona)

A Special Information Box above the figure states that the right hand touches the left hand and that both hands are flat.

A line, corresponding to the center line of the figure, is drawn down the middle of each Position Symbol. If a side of the little Position Symbol is dark it means that the arm on that side of the center line is "far from the body". The two small spokes projecting from the symbol indicate that the arms are to the front of the body (down=front to the audience or reader).

The wiggly line to the right of the figure is a Back & Forth Symbol, showing visually that the arms move up and down 3 times in all.

MOURNING WOMAN, WIDOW (hahine magepe)

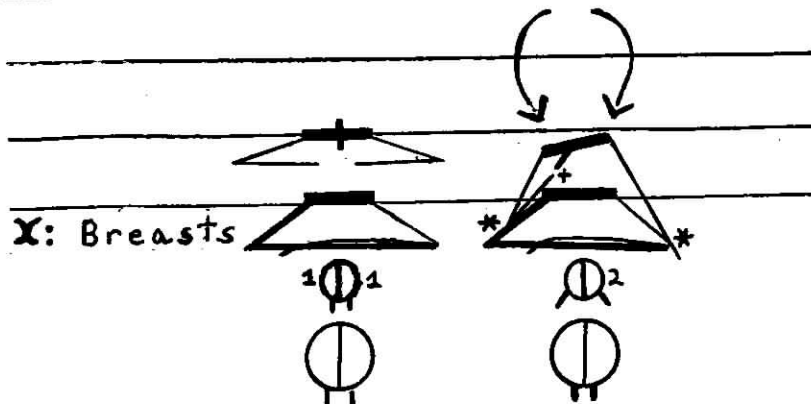


††
+ X

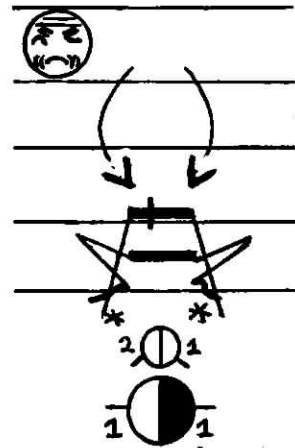
Presto



9696



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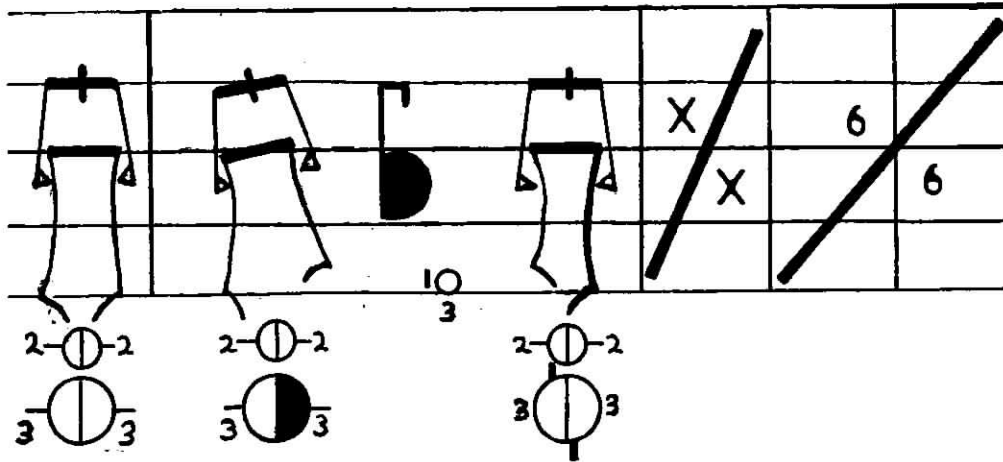


MAN DEFECATING (tangata titiko)

Kagobai is no longer sitting on the ground so the hips of the figure are raised accordingly. Two Bending-Forward Arrows are placed over the figure, indicating that the upper body is bent forward. The Facial Circle shows wrinkled forehead, wrinkled eyebrows, one eye open, one eye slit shut, and a grimace with the mouth.

The little Position Symbol is light on both sides, indicating that the arms are "close to the body". The large Position Symbol, notating the position of the lower body, shows that the leg on the side of the darkened side of the symbol is higher than the other (notice that the heel is lifted off the ground).

POLIO



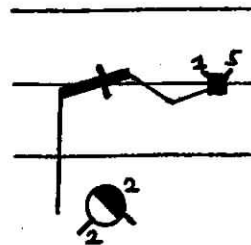
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Kagobai lifts one leg and takes one step forward. The large Movement Symbol is called a TRAVELING Symbol. It indicates traveling. The figure goes forward to the reader, in the direction of the big black ball. Repeat signs with the X say to repeat the sequence once with the opposite leg. It then says to repeat the whole 6 more times.



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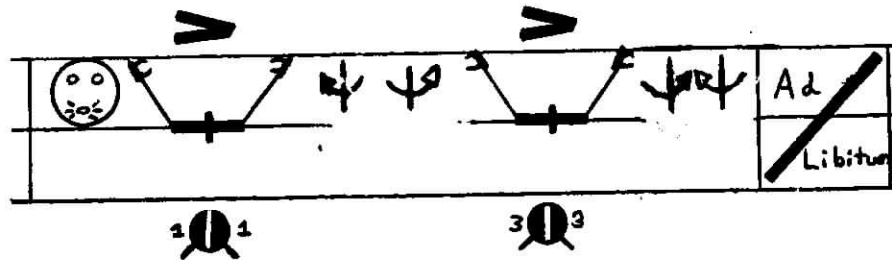
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AIRPLANE (bakagege, lit., flying vehicle)



Accelerando

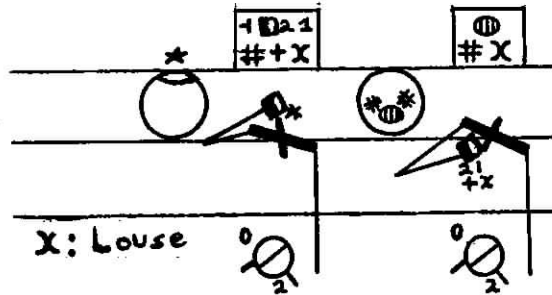


The hands are cupped with fingers slightly rounded. The arms are extended to the front corners, which can also be seen in the Position Symbols because little extension lines on the Position Symbols are directed to the front corner. The two straight lines with arrows, between the two figures and directly after the second figure, are Rotation Symbols that notate the movement of rotating the arms in and out. The straight line of the symbol represents the limb and the arrow points in the direction of the rotation. Ad Libitum in a repeat sign means that the reader should do the sequence as many times as desired.



LOUSE (kutu)

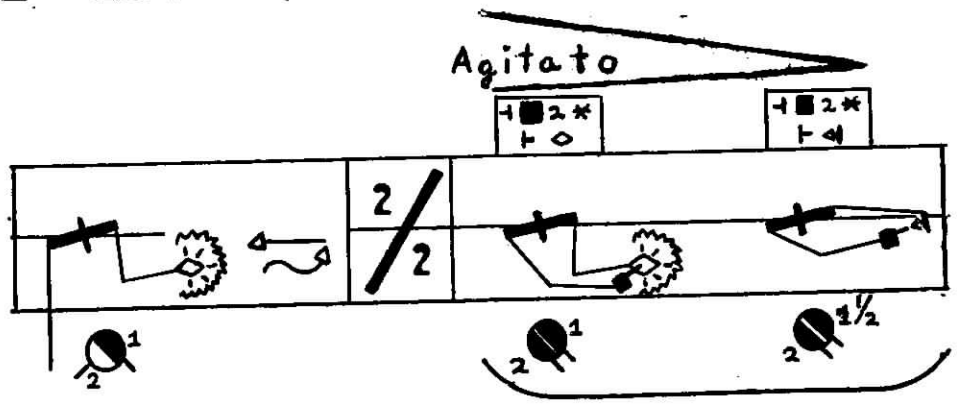
Catching and biting
a louse to death.



The prop is written in the lower left corner. Kagobai is facing the front corner. The right hand of the figure is the combination of a closed fist, with fingers down to the palm of the hand, and an open fist, with fingertips together. In the Special Information Box above the first figure it states: Right hand is in a fist except for fingers number 1 and 2, which pinch the prop. The top of the head in the Facial Circle to the left of the figure is contacted. The next Facial Circle shows teeth slashing together, which means "biting" the prop.



FISH SPEARING
(bego na kaui)



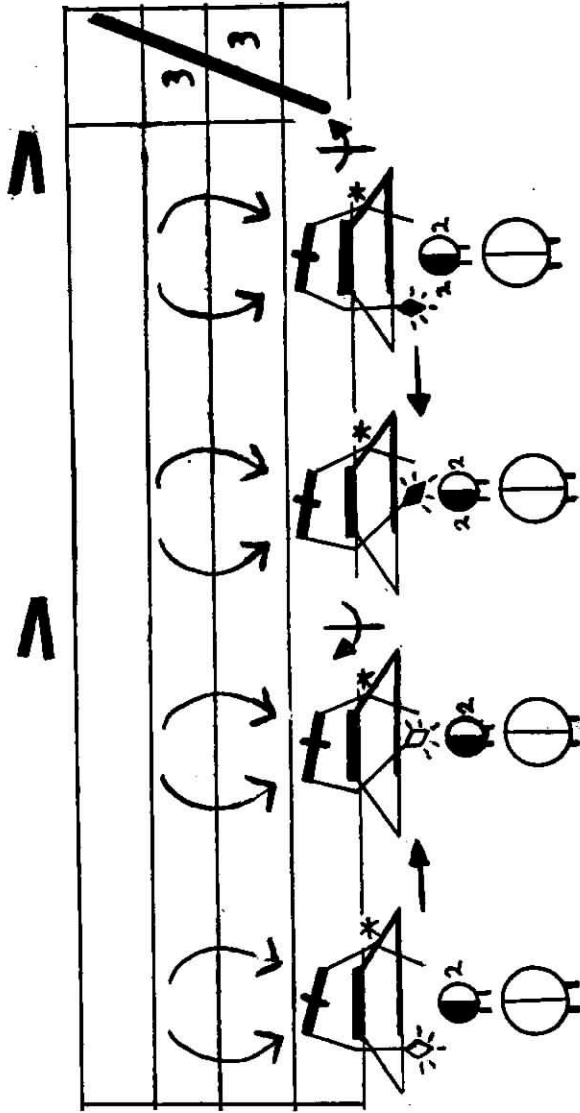
The flat hand is represented by a triangle. The triangle becomes diamond-shaped when seen squarely by the reader. It is light when the palm of the hand faces the reader. Kagobai's hand has the fingers spread because there are 5 little spokes jutting from the hand. The whole hand is trembling as notated by the Trembling Line surrounding the hand. The Movement Symbol after the first figure shows an undulation movement with the forearm. This is repeated two more times and then the right fist sticks finger number 2 into the palm of the hand as stated in the Special Information Box above the figure. The Decrescendo Line above the Staff says that the movement gets quieter gradually.

PLANTING A BANANA PALM
(tanu te hutu)

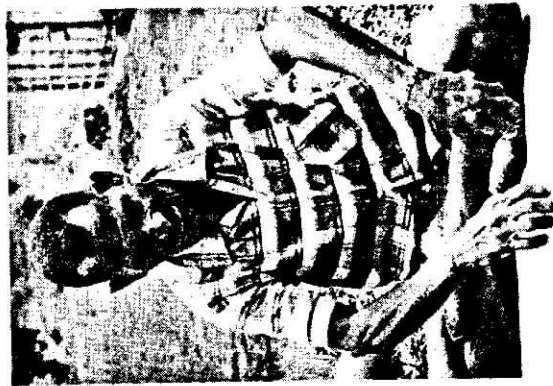


(a) clearing undergrowth

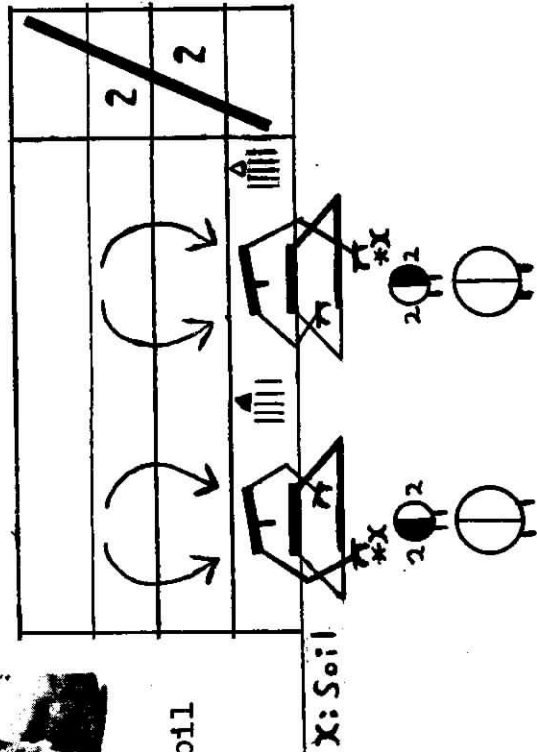
The flat hand's palm begins facing the reader with the fingers spread. An arrow to the right of the first figure notates half of a Back and Forth Symbol. The arm follows the arrow in the direction it points and then sharply rotates inward, turning the back of the hand to the reader - a dark diamond. The arm follows the arrow back again and sharply rotates outward, repeating the whole sequence three times.



The prop is stated in the lower left corner. Kagobai is bending forward, notated by the two Bending-Forward Arrows over the figures. The Movement Symbol to the right of the first figure is a Scratching Movement Symbol. The five lines of the symbol are like the furrows the five fingers make in the soil while scratching. The little arrowhead above the five lines points in the direction the figure scratches. The arrow is dark if the scratching is done with the right hand and light if the scratching is done with the left hand. Notice that the Position Symbol for the upper body notates the arms close and far, by having one side light and one side dark.

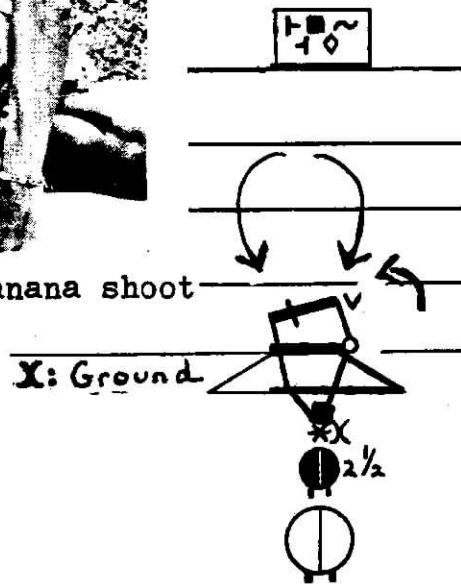


(b) loosening soil





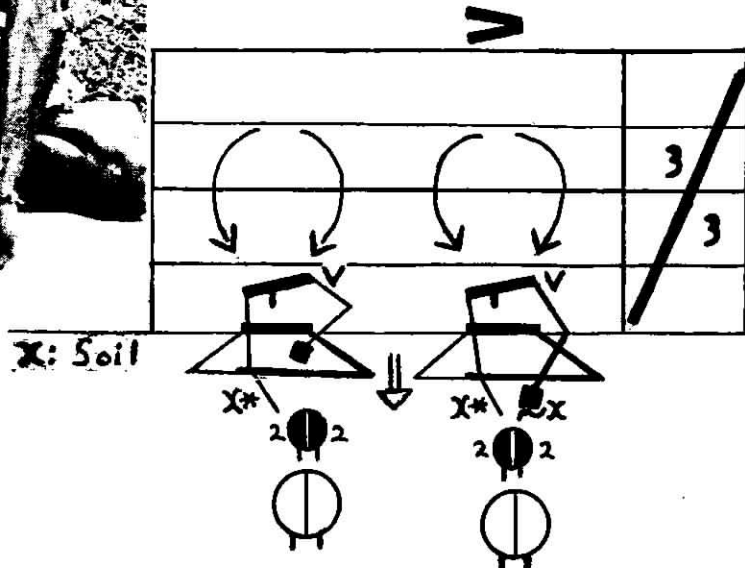
(c) planting banana shoot



The white circle in the middle of the figure's left arm represents the elbow joint projected to the reader. The left hand is in a fist, pushing on the palm of the right hand, stated in the Special Information Box over the figure. The figure is both bending forward and to the side at the same time because there are not only two Bending-Forward Arrows but also a Bending-Side Arrow as well to the right of the figure. The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder says that the shoulder is forward. Notice that beside the Position Symbol there is a number $2\frac{1}{2}$. The numbers beside the symbols represent turn-in, turn-out of the limbs and $2\frac{1}{2}$ is between 2 - Natural and 3 - Partial Turn-In.



(d) stamping soil around
planted banana shoot



The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder states that the shoulder is pushed forward. The act of pounding earth is notated by lifting the arm up and then bringing the fist down onto the soil with a pushing motion. Pushing is notated by the Pushing Contact Star under the second figure's fist - a curly symbol. The movement is done sharply because of the accent mark above the second figure.

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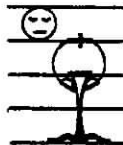
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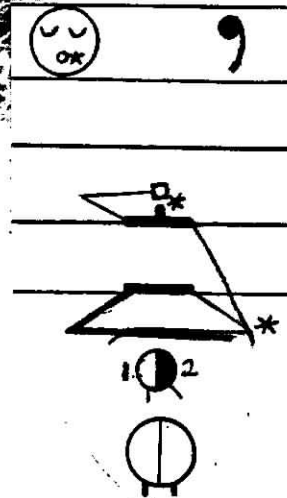
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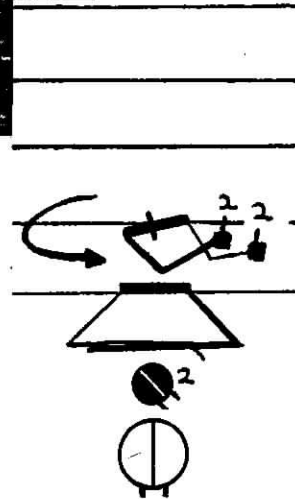
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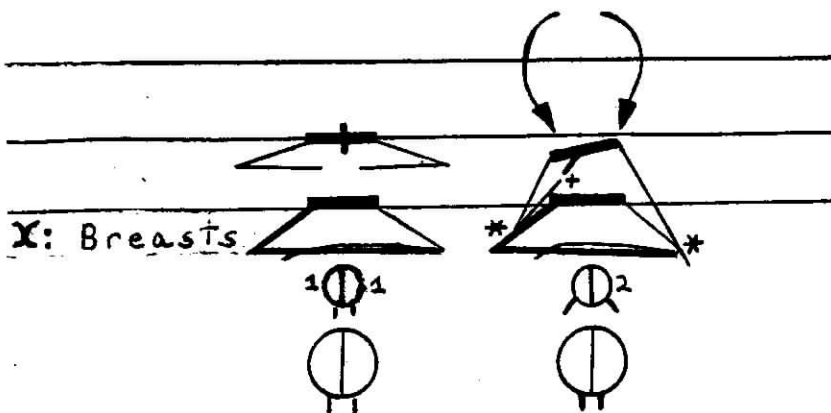


1+
#+X

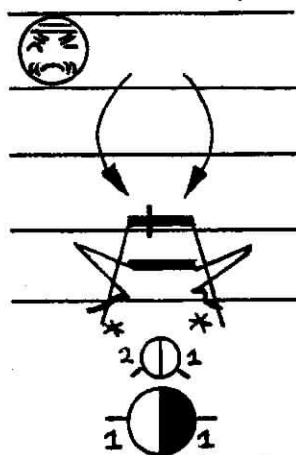
Presto



9696



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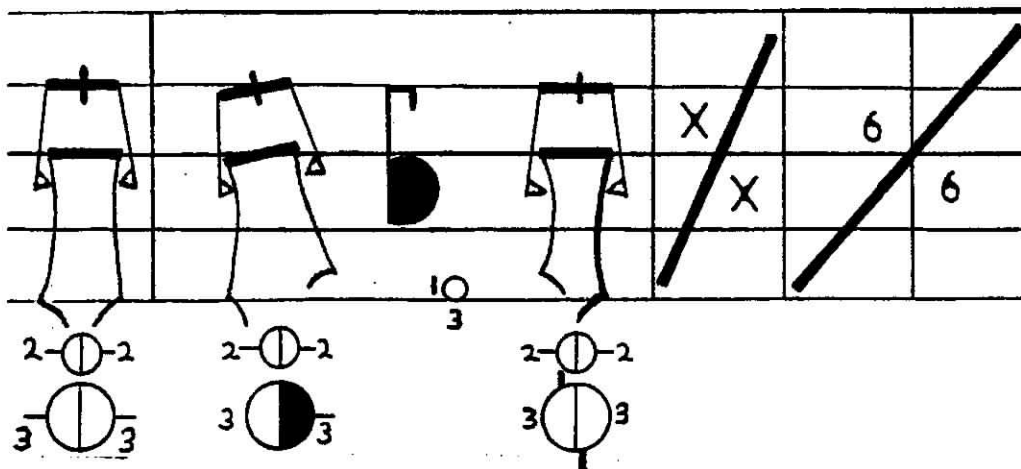


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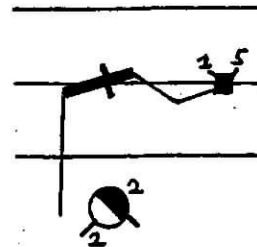
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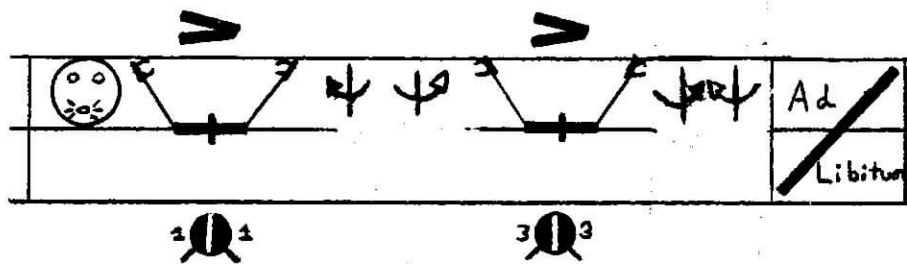
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Accelerando

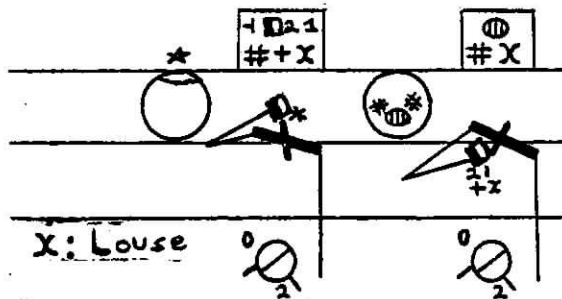


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LOUSE (kutu)

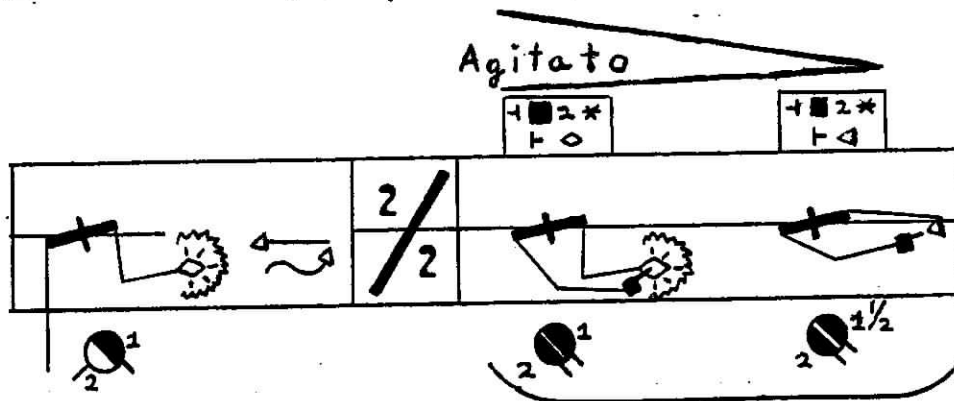
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FISH SPEARING
(bego na kauli)



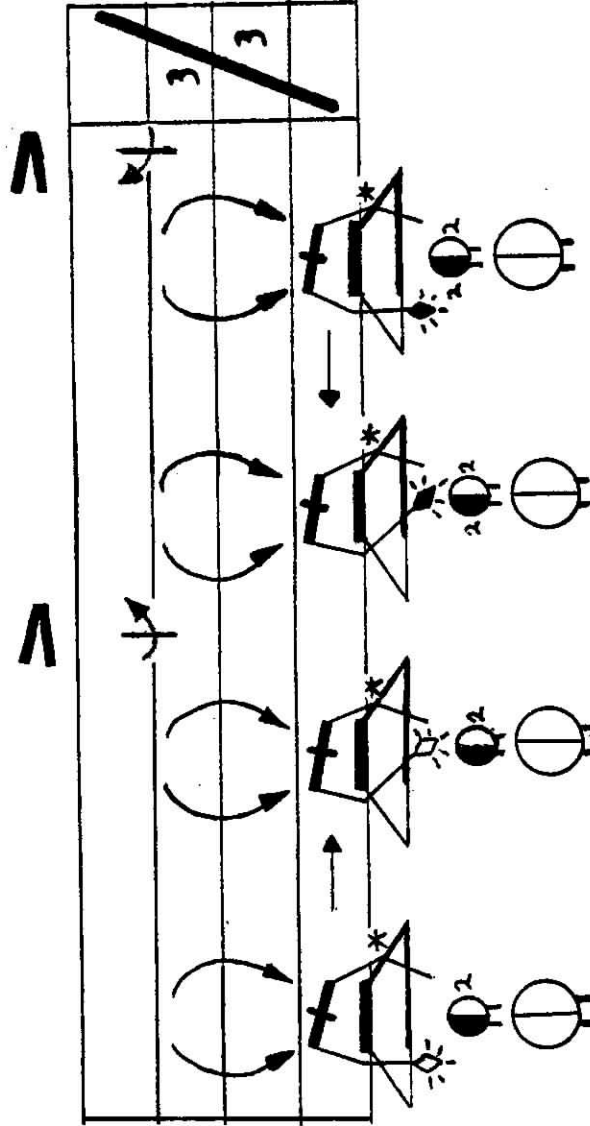
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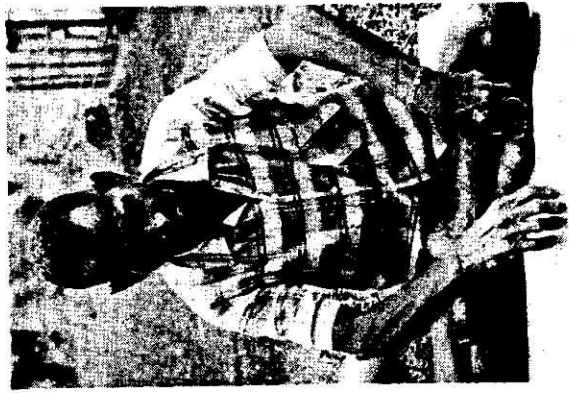


(a) clearing undergrowth

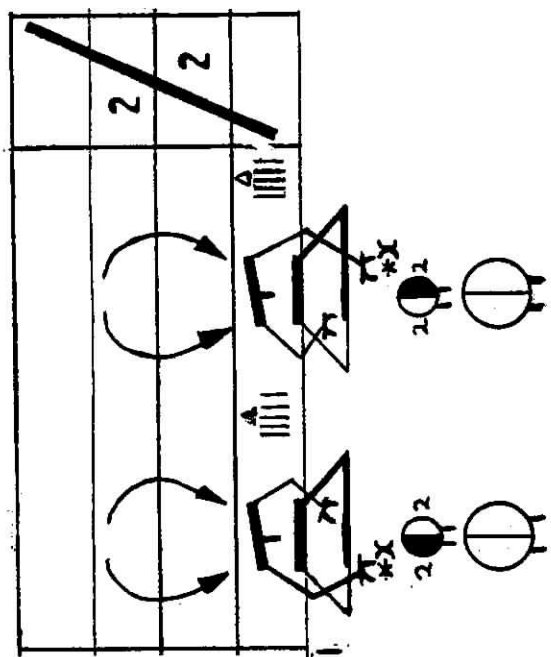
The flat hand's palm begins facing the reader with the fingers spread. An arrow to the right of the first figure notates half of a Back and Forth Symbol. The arm follows the arrow in the direction it points and then sharply rotates inward, turning the back of the hand to the reader - a dark diamond. The arm follows the arrow back again and sharply rotates outward, repeating the whole sequence three times.



The prop is stated in the lower left corner. Kagobai is bending forward, notated by the two Bending-Forward Arrows over the figures. The Movement Symbol to the right of the first figure is a Scratching Movement Symbol. The five lines of the symbol are like the furrows the five fingers make in the soil while scratching. The little arrowhead above the five lines points in the direction the figure scratches. The arrow is dark if the scratching is done with the right hand and light if the scratching is done with the left hand. Notice that the Position Symbol for the upper body notates the arms close and far, by having one side light and one side dark.

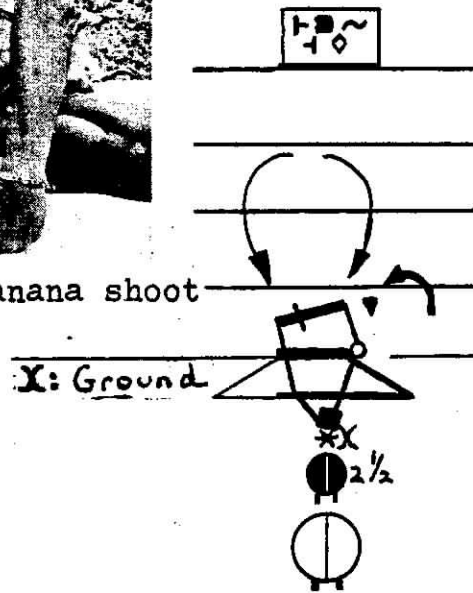


(b) loosening soil





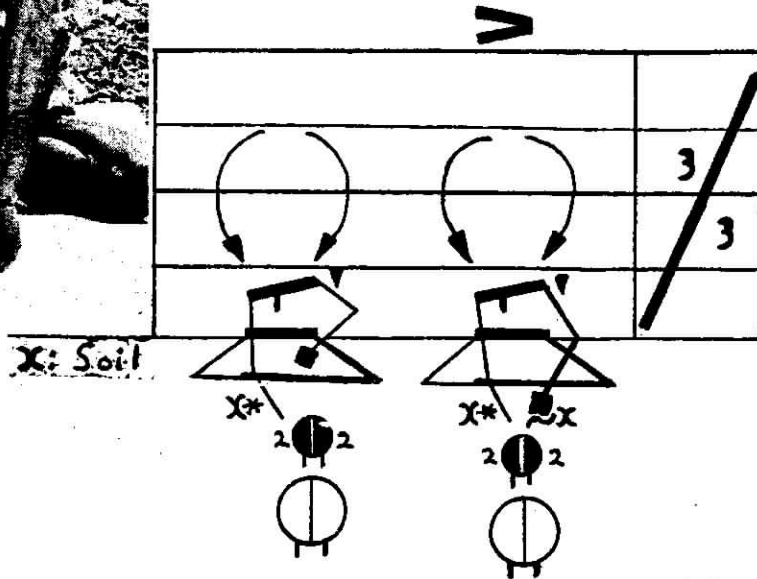
(c) planting banana shoot



The white circle in the middle of the figure's left arm represents the elbow joint projected to the reader. The left hand is in a fist, pushing on the palm of the right hand, stated in the Special Information Box over the figure. The figure is both bending forward and to the side at the same time because there are not only two Bending-Forward Arrows but also a Bending-Side Arrow as well to the right of the figure. The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder says that the shoulder is forward. Notice that beside the Position Symbol there is a number $2\frac{1}{2}$. The numbers beside the symbols represent turn-in, turn-out of the limbs and $2\frac{1}{2}$ is between 2 - Natural and 3 - Partial Turn-In.



(d) stamping soil around
planted banana shoot



The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder states that the shoulder is pushed forward. The act of pounding earth is notated by lifting the arm up and then bringing the fist down onto the soil with a pushing motion. Pushing is notated by the Pushing Contact Star under the second figure's fist - a curly symbol. The movement is done sharply because of the accent mark above the second figure.

For more information on Sutton Movement Shorthand and the notation of Sign Languages, contact the Movement Shorthand Society; P.O. Box 4949; Irvine, California; 92716; U.S.A. Telephone: (714)644-8342



INTRODUCTION

Many movement notation systems have been invented, yet no one system in the movement field is universally used. Movement is very complex and it is therefore difficult to devise a system that is comprehensive and yet easy to read, write and learn.

In creating Sutton Movement Shorthand, I have tried to visually present motion on paper with the hopes that visuality would cut down many hours of memorizing non-visual symbols. If notation can be read as easily as watching a film, yet more concise, complete and easier to handle than video, then the movement fields will be greatly benefited.

Movement Shorthand, which was first developed from a classical ballet dancer's viewpoint is now used on an international scale in the classical ballet world. The system was taught to the Royal Danish Ballet in Copenhagen in 1974, less than six months after the publication of the first textbook on the system.

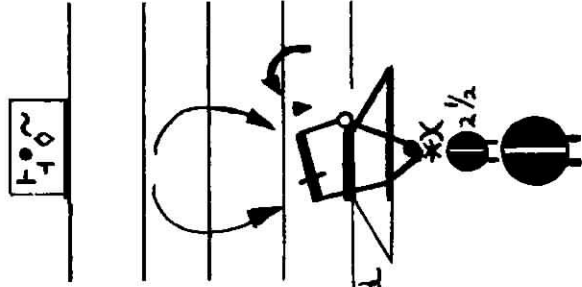
While in Copenhagen I was asked by Lars von der Lieth at the University of Copenhagen to collaborate with him in adapting Sutton Movement Shorthand to notate the Deaf Sign Language. Through Professor von der Lieth I met Rolf Kuschel, a Psychological Anthropologist at the University of Copenhagen. Professor Kuschel is well known for his fascinating research on Kagobai, the lone deaf-mute on the island of Rennell in the South Pacific Solomon Island group, who was forced to develop his own means of communication with others. Rolf Kuschel has written a book, published by the University of Copenhagen, on Kagobai's unique deaf sign language.

At the request of Professor Kuschel, I have chosen eleven samples from some 217 of Kagobai's signs to notate in Sutton Movement Shorthand, as examples of notation of a deaf sign language.

Valerie Sutton
December, 1974



(c) planting banana shoot



X: Ground

The white circle in the middle of the figure's left arm represents the elbow joint projected to the reader. The left hand is in a fist, pushing on the palm of the right hand, stated in the Special Information Box over the figure. The figure is both bending forward and to the side at the same time because there are not only two Bending-Forward Arrows but also a Bending-Side Arrow as well to the right of the figure. The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder says that the shoulder is forward. Notice that beside the Position Symbol there is a number 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. The numbers beside the symbols represent turn-in, turn-out of the limbs and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ is between 2 - Natural and 3 - Partial Turn-In.

SUTTON MOVEMENT SHORTHAND

Examples of
Notation
of a
Deaf Sign Language

Sutton Movement Shorthand is a visual stick figure notation system that is placed on five lines. The five lines, termed the Movement Staff, show the levels of the human body in space.

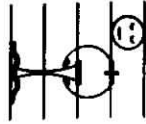
The first line of the Movement Staff, the bottom line, designates the ground.

The knees come to the second line of the Staff when the figure stands straight.

The hips come to the third line of the Staff when the figure stands straight.

The shoulders are placed on the fourth line of the Staff when the figure stands straight.

The Top Line is above normal level and is used when the figure jumps off the ground.



The legs extend from the hips and the arms extend from the shoulders. The feet and hands are then placed at the ends of the leg and arm lines.

The torso area is in between the hips and shoulders of the figure at all times.

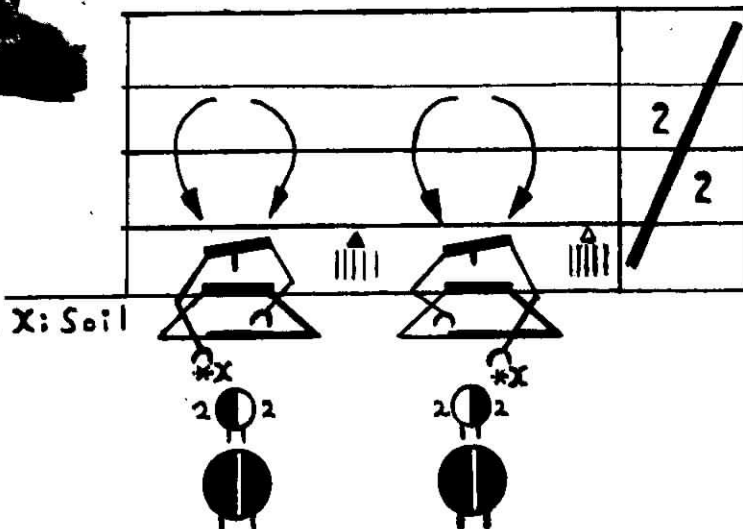
Turning or tilting of the head are represented by the Head Line, placed on the shoulders (actually notates neck rotation).

Notation of facial expressions is placed in the Facial Circle, between the Top Line and the Shoulder Line of the Staff.

The prop is stated in the lower left corner. Kagobai is bending forward, notated by the two Bending-Forward Arrows over the figures. The Movement Symbol to the right of the first figure is a Scratching Movement Symbol. The five lines of the symbol are like the furrows the five fingers make in the soil while scratching. The little arrowhead above the five lines points in the direction the figure scratches. The arrow is dark if the scratching is done with the right hand and light if the scratching is done with the left hand. Notice that the Position Symbol for the upper body notates the arms close and far, by having one side light and one side dark.



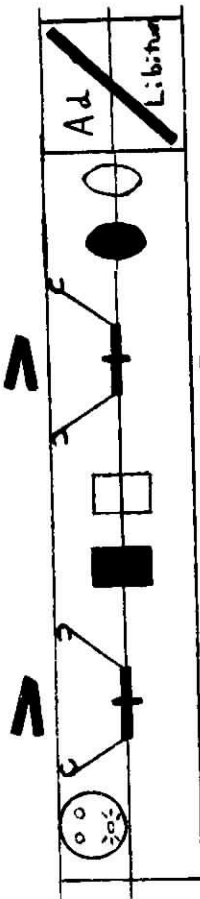
(b) loosening soil



AIRPLANE (bakagege, lit., flying vehicle)



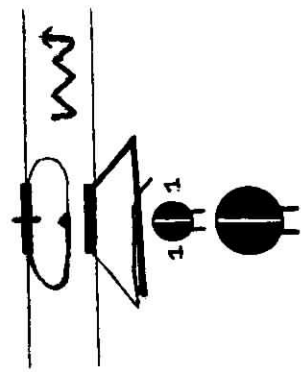
Accelerando



The hands are cupped with fingers slightly rounded. The arms are extended to the front corners, which can also be seen in the Position Symbols because little extension lines on the Position Symbols are directed to the front corner. The two rectangular symbols to the right of the first figure are Rotation Symbols that notate the movement of rotating inward. The dark symbol stands for the right arm rotating and the light symbol stands for the left rotating. The two oval symbols to the right are also Rotation Symbols. They notate rotating outwards. Ad Libitum in a repeat sign means that the reader should do the sequence as many times as desired.

A Special Information Box above the figure states that the right hand touches the left hand and that both hands are flat. A line, corresponding to the center line of the figure, is drawn down the middle of each Position Symbol. If a side of the Position Symbol is dark it means that the arm on that side of the center line is "far from the body" or it means that the leg on that side of the center line is a "working leg" or "not under the hips". The wiggly line to the right is a Back & Forth Symbol, showing that the arms move up and down 3 times in all.

PULL UP AFTER EATING (maakona)

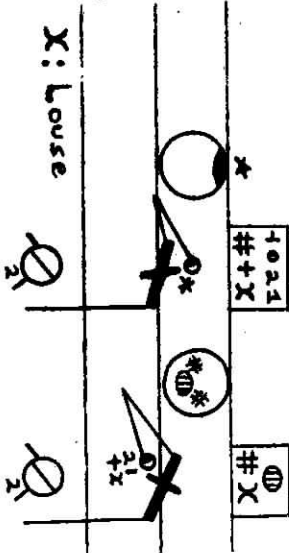




LOUSE (Kutu)

Catching and biting

a louse to death.



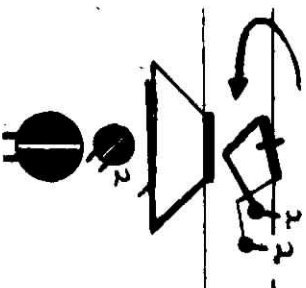
X: Louse

The prop is written in the lower left corner. Kagobai is facing the front corner. The right hand of the figure is the combination of a closed fist, with fingers down to the palm of the hand, and an open fist, with fingertips together. In the Special Information Box above the first figure it states: Right hand is in a fist except for fingers number 1 and 2, which pinch the prop. The top of the head in the Facial Circle to the left of the figure is contacted. The next Facial Circle shows teeth slashing together, which means "bitting" the prop.

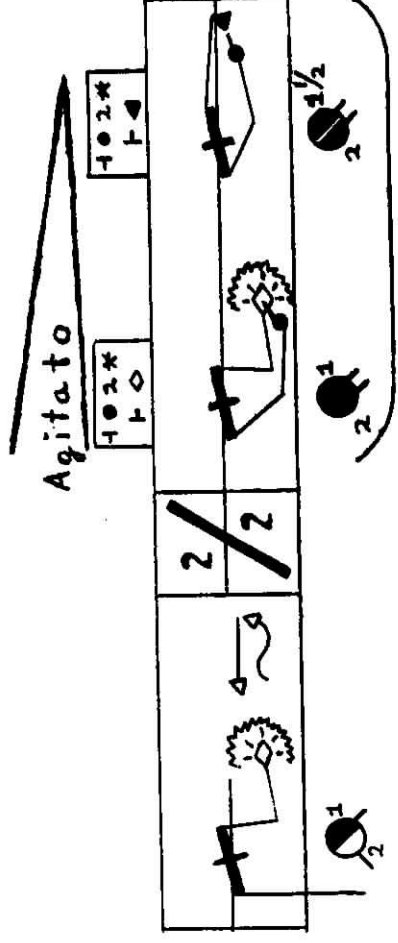


Tau tuhahine 'brother-sister relationship'

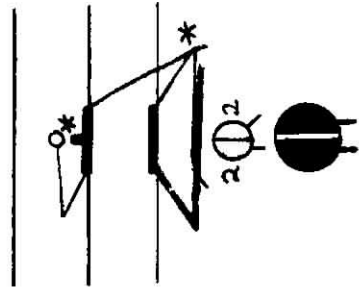
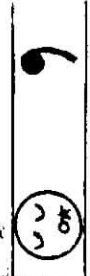
The shoulder line of the figure is slanted so that it appears to be facing the front corner. A Twisting Arrow to the left notates the twist in the torso. The hands are fists. One finger juts out of each fist. The finger's number is placed beside the finger. The center line of the figure is drawn down the middle of the Position Symbols. If there is no number on a side of a Position Symbol this means the limb is turned-out. The number 2 means the limb is natural (palm down).



(bego na kauli)



The flat hand is represented by a triangle. The triangle becomes diamond-shaped when seen squarely by the reader. It is light when the palm of the hand faces the reader. Kagobai's hand has the fingers spread because there are 5 little spokes jutting from the hand. The whole hand is trembling as notated by the Trembling Line surrounding the hand. The Movement Symbol after the first figure shows an undulation movement with the forearm. This is repeated two more times and then the right fist sticks finger number 2 into the palm of the hand as stated in the Special Information Box above the figure. The Decrescendo Line above the Staff says that the movement gets quieter gradually.



Bimu 'to drink'.

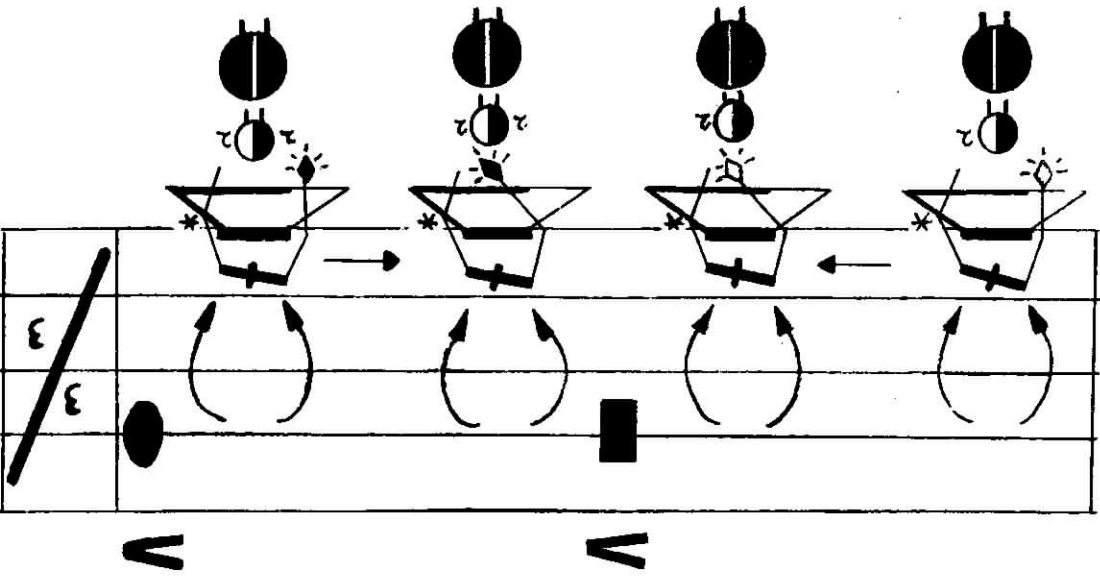
The stick figure's hips are now placed on the first line of the Staff because Kagobai is sitting on the ground. The leg crossed in front of the other leg is dark. The Head Line is above the shoulder line which means that the head is back. Contact Stars (asterisk) are placed near the head and knees showing contact with that part of the body. Where the contact is received on the face is shown in the Facial Circle. An Inhaling Breathing Symbol is upper right.



(tanu te hutli)

PLANTING A BANANA PALM

(a) clearing undergrowth



The flat hand's palm begins facing the reader with the fingers spread. An arrow to the right of the first figure notates half of a Back and Forth Symbol. The arm follows the arrow in the direction it points and then sharply rotates inward, turning the back of the hand to the reader - a dark diamond. The arm follows the arrow back again and sharply rotates outward, repeating the whole sequence three times.

The stick figure is the visual part of Movement Shorthand, designed to make learning and reading faster because of its film-like quality. There is a symbolic section to the system also that is used to supply movement between positions, extra details and a double check on the drawing of the stick figure.

Movement Symbols are placed within the five lines of the Staff. They notate movement from figure to figure.

Position Symbols are placed underneath the stick figure. They clarify the drawing of the stick figure, adding the third dimension so that no misunderstandings can occur.

The smaller Position Symbol clarifies the position of the upper body (above hips). The larger Position Symbol clarifies the position of the lower body (below hips).

Little numbers are placed beside the Position Symbols stating how the limbs are rotated in the joints.

Special Information Boxes are at times placed over the figure, coding minute details with the fingers and hands.

Repeat signs are taken from music notation with a few variations. Accent marks and tempo words are also borrowed from music.

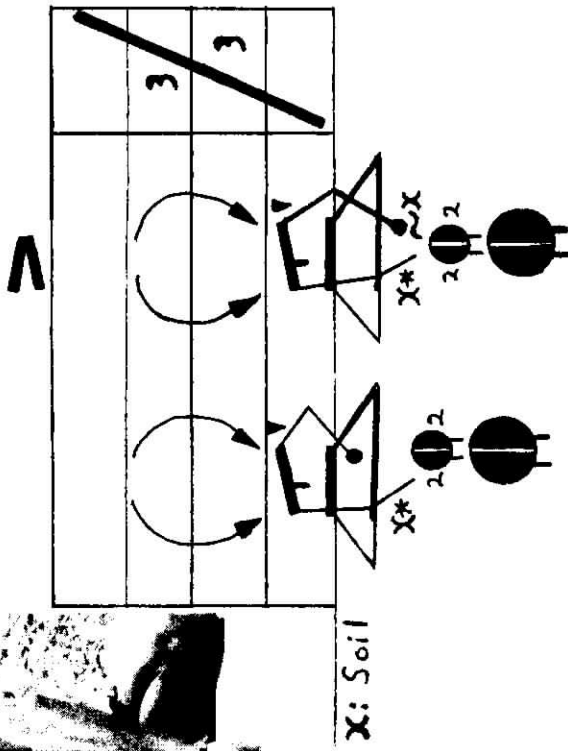
In most Deaf Sign Languages only the upper body is used. In such cases only the top three lines of the Movement Staff are needed. The shoulders are placed on the Shoulder Line, with the Facial Circle to the left. The Position Symbol for the upper body is put below the Staff. The bottom two lines and the Position Symbol for the lower body are left out.

As soon as the whole body comes into play all five lines, the lower part of the figure and Position Symbols for the lower body are included once again.

In the following examples both cases occur many times.



(d) stamping soil around
planted banana shoot



The small arrowhead near the figure's left shoulder states that the shoulder is pushed forward. The act of pounding earth is notated by lifting the arm up and then bringing the fist down onto the soil with a pushing motion. Pushing is notated by the Pushing Contact Star under the second figure's fist - a curly symbol. The movement is done sharply because of the accent mark above the second figure.

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For more information on Sutton Movement
Shorthand and the notation of Deaf Sign
Languages, contact the Movement Shorthand
Society; P.O. Box 4949; Irvine, California;
92664; U.S.A. Telephone: (714)644-8342



(714) 644-8342

THE MOVEMENT SHORTHAND SOCIETY,

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SUTTON MOVEMENT SHORTHAND

EXAMPLES
OF
NOTATION
OF A

DEAF SIGN LANGUAGE

