

Manual of the Mace

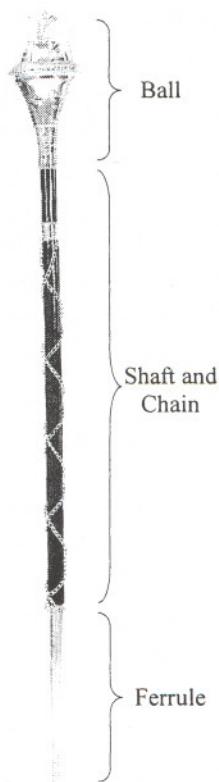


Figure 54. Mace

3.1. The Mace. Drum Majors use a mace to give commands while in formation. The mace is often easier for band members to see while marching or standing in formation. (Fig. 54)

3.2. Carriage and Marching.

3.2.1. Carriage of the Mace. The mace is traditionally carried in the right hand, about a foot below the ball, at the top of the shaft, at a point where the mace is balanced. Differences in construction will change the balance point for each individual mace. When conducting, the mace is held in the left hand at the same point (Fig. 55).

3.2.2. At Attention. At the position of Attention, the mace is held at the balance point in the left hand with the first two fingers and thumb gripping the shaft and the other fingers tucked into the palm. The mace is held at a 60-degree angle from the plane of the ground. The shaft is parallel to a line that passes through the center of the hips.

3.2.3. Arm Swing. The Drum Major's arm swing is similar to that of the instrumentalists. The arm swings six inches to the front and three inches to the rear, reaching the apex of front and rear on each pulse (Fig. 56).

3.2.4. Parade Rest (Fig. 57).

3.2.5. Marching. When marching with the mace, the Drum Major will carry the mace in the right hand (Fig. 56).

3.2.6. Saluting. Whether marching or stationary, the Drum Major should turn towards the Officer in Charge to render a salute (Fig. 58).

3.2.7. Conducting. The Drum Major conducts with the right hand, holding the Mace in the left hand.

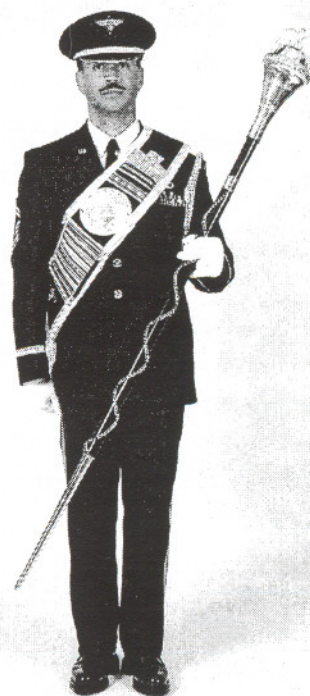


Figure 55.
Carriage of the Mace



Figure 56.
Drum Major, Marching



Figure 57.
Drum Major, Parade Rest



Figure 58.
Drum Major, Saluting

3.3. Procession Mace Commands. Processions include Parades, Funerals and Reviews.

3.3.1. Roll Off. The Drum Major raises the mace by the shaft, with the ball in the air, directly in front of him, perpendicular to the ground. This is the signal for a roll-off. When the Drum Major drops the mace, grabbing it just below the ball, the roll off begins.

3.3.2. Horns Up. Horns come up automatically on the fifth count of a roll off. Before the march begins, the Drum Major gives Horns Up. This happens in three parts. First, the mace raised above his/her head, with the same angle as at rest. Second, the mace is lowered as if drawing a "J." Finally, the mace is raised as in the first part. These coincide with the Horns Up for each instrument chapter outlined in the Manual of Instruments (Chapter 4).

3.3.3. Play. After the Drum Major gives the Command "Forward," he/she will then say "March." The mace is lowered on the step-off.

3.3.4. Seven-Count Cut Off. On a Seven-Count Cut Off, the Mace is raised with the Ferrule in the air at a 45-degree angle to the right side of the body, in the same plane as the shoulders. It stays there for the first four steps of the Seven-Count Cut Off. On count five, the Mace follows its own line through the ball towards the left hip, back to original position on count six and following its line again towards the ball on count seven. Then return the mace to rest.

3.3.5. Horns Down. On the march, return the mace to the rest position. The horns come down automatically in two counts. The free hand returns to the side in two more counts.

3.3.6. Drum Tap or Stick Tap. This command is identical to the Seven-Count Cut Off.

3.4. Formation Commands.

3.4.1. Horns Up. This can be done either with the hand or the mace when facing toward the band. If facing away from the band, it must be done with the mace. See the previous section.

3.4.2. Horns Down. This can be done either with the hand or the mace when facing toward the band. If facing away from the band, it must be done with the mace. See the previous section.

3.4.3. Dressing Sequence. Same as a normal Air Force dressing sequence described in paragraph 3.2.4.

3.5. Drum Major Responsibilities.

3.5.1. Alignment in Formation. The Drum Major must align him/herself so that the largest number of band members can see the mace and conducting hand. The Drum Major must be in line of sight with the bass drum and the COT (Commander of Troops).

3.5.2. Uniform Issues. Ceremony organizers and the COT determine the uniform for the ceremony prior to the event's commencement.

3.5.3. Chain of Command in Formation. In any ceremony, the Commander of Troops (COT) is at the top of the chain of command. The Drum Major takes commands from the COT. However, the Drum Major has the responsibility to give commands that will allow the band to safely and comfortably accomplish its mission. In certain circumstances, the Drum Major may give commands that differ from the COT when necessitated by safety concerns. Instrument weight may cause band members to fatigue faster than other troops. For example, during prolonged periods of Parade Rest, the Drum Major may need to give the command Rest.