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# Good Things Come in Small Packages

*Successful Design and Implementation for the Small or Younger Marching Band*

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# Designing for Small or Young Bands

## Philosophy

How do you want to build your program?

## Audience

Who are you performing for?

Bubba and BOA

## Competitive Goals

What do you want to accomplish this season?

## Educational Goals

How can you use marching band to TEACH your students?

## Realistic Assessment

What do you have that works and what do you have that doesn't work?

## Ownership

Directors, staff, parents, and students all have to feel like they have ownership of the program and the process

## Identity

How do people know your band?

This is a result of the people who create and students who perform

## Choosing the Production

### Audio AND Visual Design

Concept/Theme

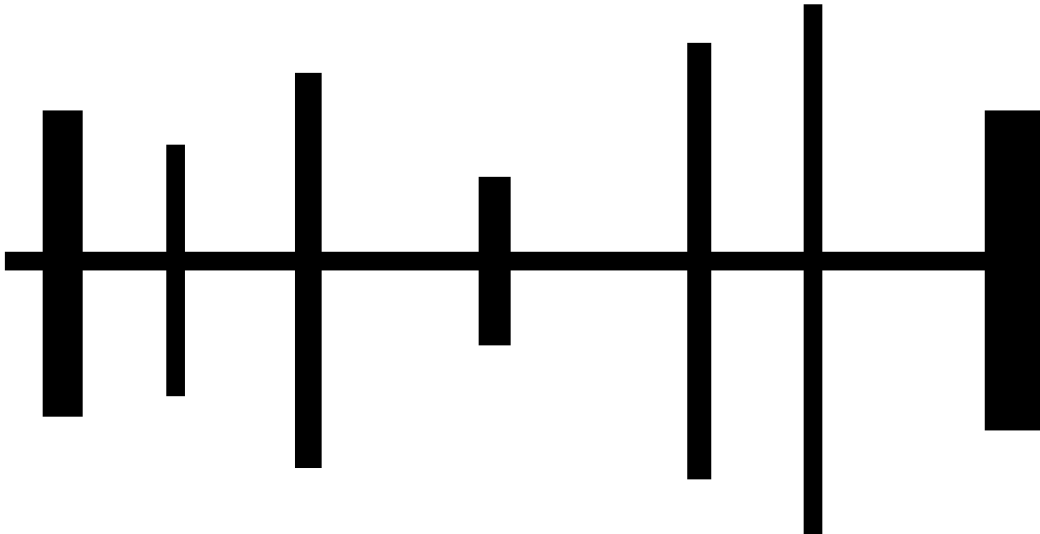
Music

Drill/Staging

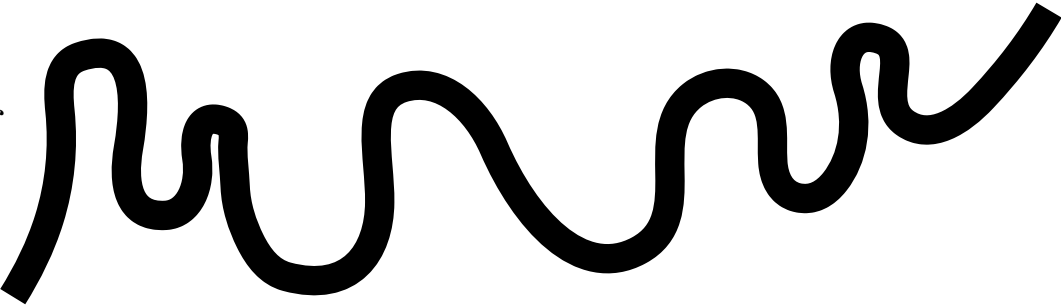
# The Horizontal and Vertical Lines

Horizontal Line- Connects your show from beginning to end  
Vertical Line- Individual moments of effect

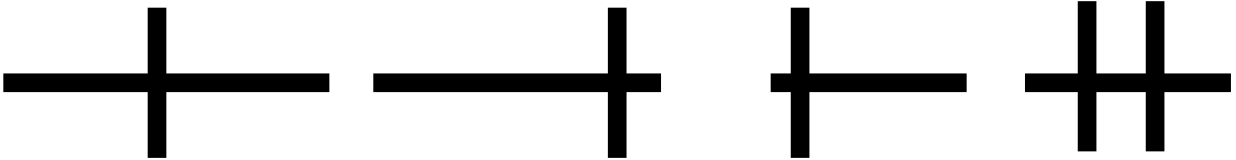
Good



Actual  
Direction of  
Production



Bad



## Selecting the Music

Different for small bands  
Length  
Difficulty  
Tempo/Style  
Variety of texture  
Impacts are different  
Soloists  
Find a niche

## Selecting the Visual

Props  
Eliminate parts of field  
Function  
Full band coordination

### **Transitions**

Change focus

Sequential

Soloists

End guard at their next piece of equipment

Transition only part of the ensemble

Use multiple locations to transition

## Tips and Tricks

- Plan
- Coordinate
- Seek outside help
- Stay current
- Borrow from other schools
- Reduce reuse recycle
- [guardcloset.com](http://guardcloset.com)
- Tape flag poles
- Connect the dots
- Applied pageantry
- Derived achievement
- Excellence as an effect
- Social media groups

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## Implementation for Small or Young Bands

### Music Considerations

#### Warm-ups

- Breathing
- Mouthpiece
- Long Tones
- Lip slurs/Woodwind
- Technique
- Chorale or Lyrical Section

#### Timing

- Start in sectionals
- Utilize student leaders
- Exercises that reflect and include challenging segments
- Always make a good sound
- Contrast

### Visual Considerations

#### Fundamentals

#### Style

- Cleaner
- Consistent
- Body Choreography in fundamentals
- Provide vocabulary early
- Exercises from the show
- No mindless reps
- Timing of additional visuals
- Flexibility in movement
  - Not just marching
  - Explore dance movement
- Putting it all together

### **The Secret**

Confidence is Key  
Kids think what you think  
No fear  
Small Steps lead to big things  
Little victories  
Prepare to perform  
Trust and relationships  
David and Goliath