DANCING MACHINES

an Etude Arrangement for Advanced Battery Percussion

Written & Arranged by:
ZACHARY L. BRUMFIELD

to the Original Music of:
PETER JONES, RICHARD HENSHALL,
DAN BRIGGS, AND MATT LYNCH

Dancing Machines by Nova Collective, arranged by Zachary L. Brumfield
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OVERVIEW — HEADING

This advanced etude for battery percussion pushes both the hands and the mind, offering performers a multi-layered challenge of rhythm, color, and endurance. Written to “Dancing Machines” by Nova Collective, it explores rhythmic sonority, dissonant textures, and the full range of the battery ensemble. The inclusion of accessories such as puffies, ribbon crashers, and rim effects adds a unique timbral depth, transforming the battery into a soundscape that alternates between raw aggression and subtle nuance.

The piece unfolds in two contrasting sections, each with its own tempo and character. The opening 195 BPM demands precise rudimental control, with driving figures, split-part interplay, and exposed feature moments that push individual responsibility to the forefront. Rapid alternations of 4:6 tuplets, metric modulations, and dynamic contrasts keep players and audiences on edge, with the battery often mirroring the melodic contour of the track in both tone and rhythm.

Midway through, the music transitions into a more textural and atmospheric sound world. The Vivace and subsequent passages highlight the ensemble’s ability to move from tightly interlocked rhythms to expansive gestures—shifting between puffies, rim-knocks, and stick flips to evoke new colors. Here, space and sonority become just as important as velocity, requiring performers to balance touch, placement, and blend across the line.

As we conclude, the etude reintroduces energy in waves, demanding bursts of power, sudden drops in dynamic, and dense sticking combinations. From cascading six-stroke rolls to syncopated bass splits and tenor cross-overs, every phrase tests control, endurance, and awareness. The culmination is as thrilling as it is unforgiving—making it an etude that is as much about ensemble cohesion as it is about technical virtuosity.

This piece is not for the faint of heart. It is a journey through shifting tempos, textures, and emotional intensity—one that rewards both performers and listeners with its blend of precision, risk, and artistry.

BATTERY PERCUSSION

- **3-9 Marching Snare Drums (w/ Mounted Ribbon Crasher)**
  Two standard marching drum sticks

- **2-4 Marching Tenor Drums**
  Two standard marching drum sticks with rubber butts or secondary set of puffy/soft mallets

- **5 Marching Bass Drums**
  Two standard and puffy marching mallets

Battery Percussion Score

from Nova Collective's "The Further Side"

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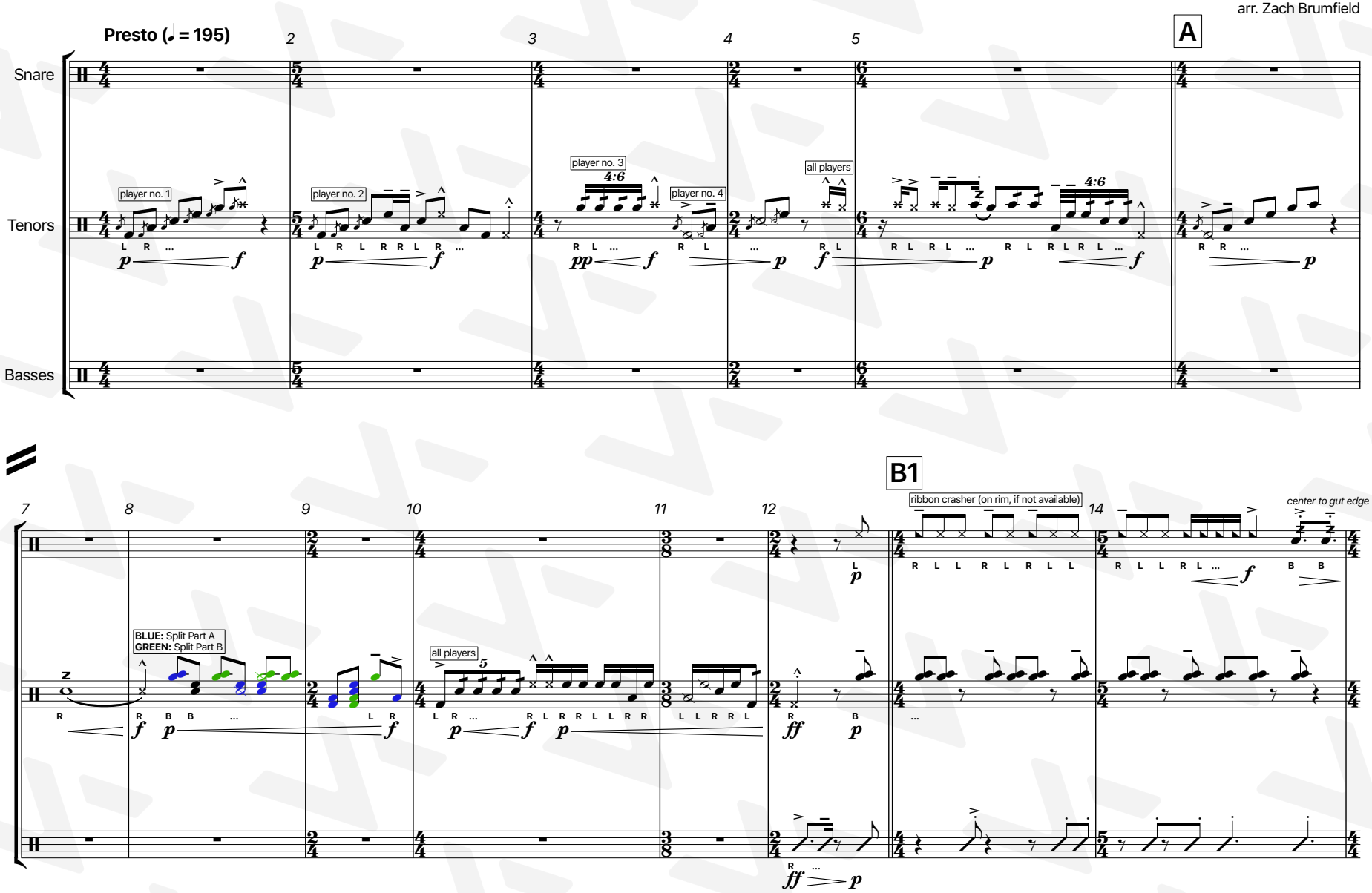
Nova Collective
arr. Zach Brumfield



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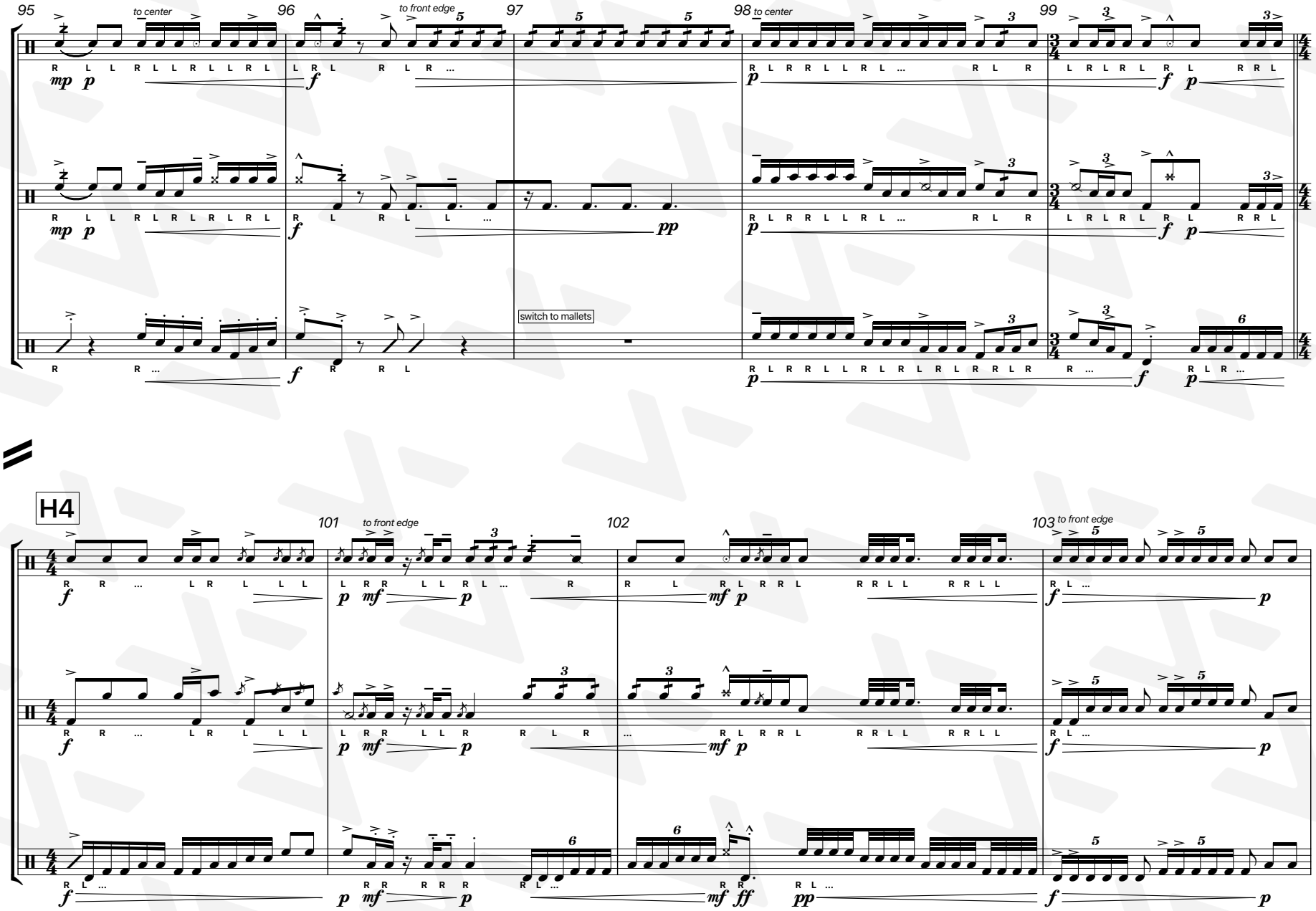
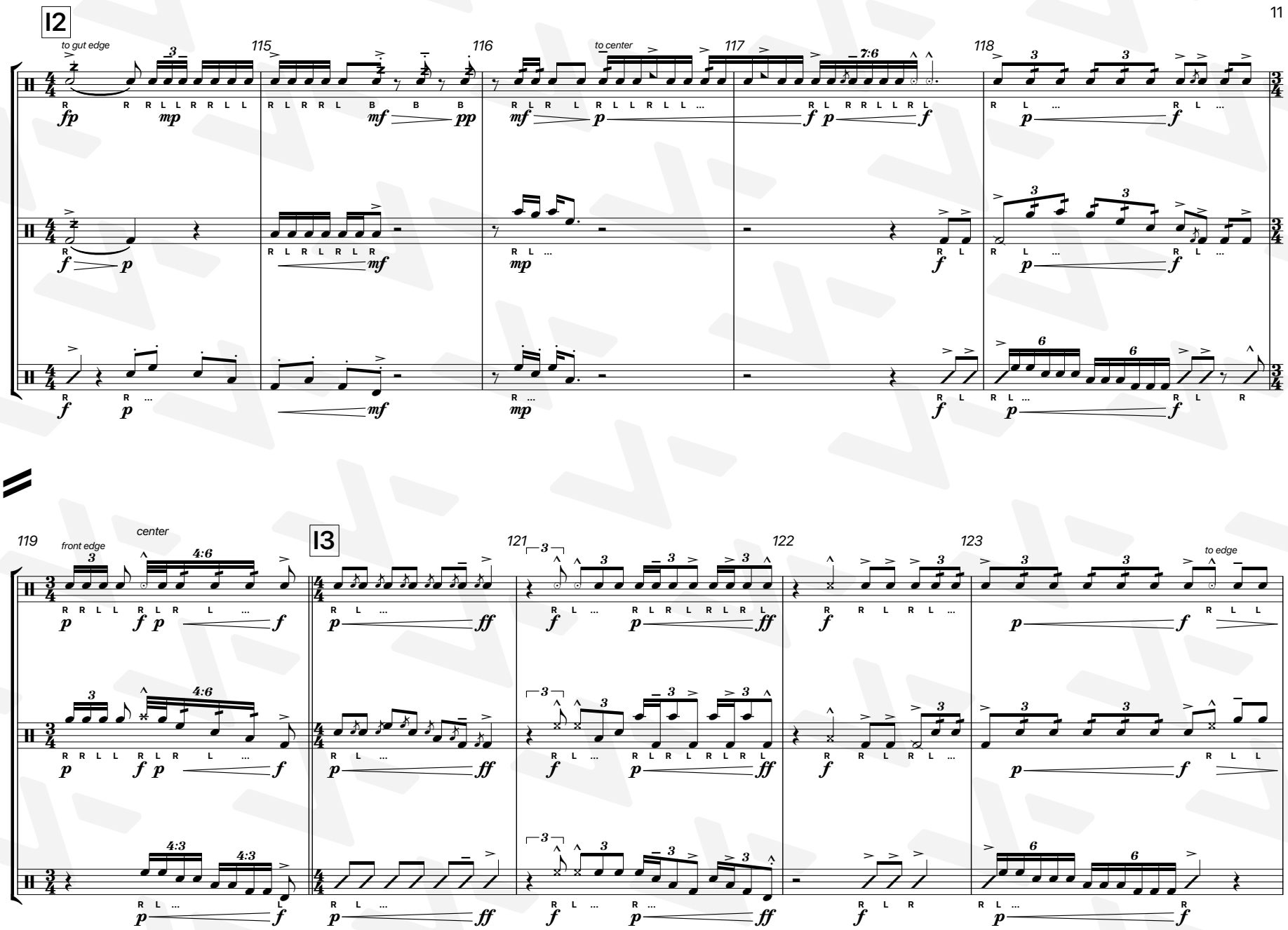
B4
24
25
27
shoulder
28
C1
30
31
32 to front edge
33
34 to center
35
C2
4:6
4:6

E2
F1
gock

72
gut edge
73
74
G2
76
77
stems up - split part b
stems down - split part a
78
to center
79
halfway
80
front edge
81
center
H1
to front edge
83
all players


95
to center
96
to front edge
97
98
to center
99
switch to mallets
H4
101
to front edge
102
103
to front edge


I2
to gut edge
115
116
to center
117
118
I3
119
front edge
center
121
122
123
to edge

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