

22 Bearish Candlestick Patterns

Pattern Recognition • Entry • Stop-Loss • Target • Confirmation

What this handbook covers	The 22 bearish candlestick formations from the article, with practical chart-based entry, stop-loss, target, confirmation and invalidation rules.
How to read the rules	No numerical prices are used. Each rule points to a candle high/low, swing point, support/resistance or chart structure.
Risk reminder	Candlestick patterns are not guarantees. Use market context, confirmation and risk management before taking a trade.

Core approach: Bearish reversal patterns are generally more meaningful after an advance; continuation patterns are generally interpreted within an existing downtrend. Confirmation, support/resistance, volume and price structure help determine whether a setup is actionable.

How to Trade Bearish Candlestick Patterns

Use the pattern as a structured setup rather than as a guaranteed signal. A common confirmation trigger is a move below the pattern low or a relevant confirmation candle low. The stop-loss should sit beyond the level that would invalidate the setup, while the target can be the next support, previous swing low or another predefined chart-based objective.

Trading element	General rule
Entry	Usually after confirmation, such as a move below the pattern low or confirmation candle low.
Stop-loss	Above the pattern high, relevant swing high, resistance zone, or another logical invalidation level.
Target	Next support, previous swing low, chart structure, or a predefined risk-reward objective (for example Target 1 at 1:1 and Target 2 at 1:2).
Position size	Adjust according to the amount of capital you are willing to risk.
Confirmation	Bearish follow-through and supporting volume can strengthen the signal.
Avoid early entries	Do not assume the pattern will succeed before supporting price action appears.

Pattern 1: Shooting Star



Candles	1	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Small body with long upper shadow	Context	Preferably after an advance and near meaningful resistance.

How to Identify

Single candle after an advance; a small real body sits near the lower part of the candle, with a prominent upper shadow.

What It Indicates

Potential bearish reversal and rejection of higher prices. Buyers may be losing strength; confirmation from the next candle can strengthen the signal.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the Shooting Star low, preferably after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the Shooting Star high (the tip of the upper wick).
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish follow-through or a break below the Shooting Star low.
Invalidation	A decisive move above the Shooting Star high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 2: Hanging Man



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	1	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Small body near the top with long lower shadow	Context	Preferably after an advance and near resistance.

How to Identify

Single candle after an advance; a small real body sits near the upper part of the candle, with a prominent lower shadow.

What It Indicates

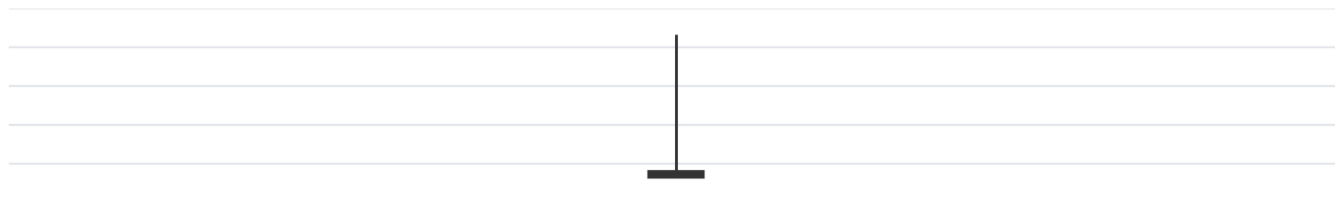
Sellers may be gaining control after an advance. On its own it is a warning rather than a trigger, so confirmation is important.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the Hanging Man low after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the Hanging Man high.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	A subsequent bearish candle breaks the Hanging Man low.
Invalidation	A move above the Hanging Man high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 3: Gravestone Doji



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	1	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Long upper shadow with little/no body	Context	After an advance and preferably near resistance.

How to Identify

Little or no real body with a long upper shadow; the open, low and close sit near the same level.

What It Indicates

Price rose but closed back near the open, showing buyers failed to hold higher prices and selling pressure may be increasing.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the Gravestone Doji low after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the Gravestone Doji high.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish follow-through below the doji low, especially near resistance.
Invalidation	A break above the doji high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 4: Bearish Marubozu



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	1	Signal	Bearish momentum
Key feature	Large bearish body with minimal shadows	Context	Can support continuation or reversal depending on broader price structure.

How to Identify

Strong bearish candle that opens near the high and closes near the low, usually with little or no shadows.

What It Indicates

Strong selling pressure and seller control during the session; prices may continue to fall.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the Marubozu low, or on a controlled retest after the breakdown.
Stop-loss	Above the Marubozu high (a tighter option is above the midpoint of the body).
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Continuation below the Marubozu low, supported by the next candle and volume.
Invalidation	Price reclaims the Marubozu high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 5: Bearish Engulfing



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Bearish body engulfs previous body	Context	Most useful after an advance, especially near resistance.

How to Identify

A smaller bullish candle is followed by a larger bearish candle that completely engulfs the prior candle's body.

What It Indicates

A possible shift from buying to selling pressure; sellers overwhelmed buyers and buying momentum may be weakening.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the bearish engulfing candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the engulfing pattern.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Price breaks and holds below the engulfing candle's low.
Invalidation	A move above the engulfing pattern high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 6: Dark Cloud Cover



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Bearish candle moves into previous bullish body	Context	After an advance and preferably around resistance.

How to Identify

A strong bullish candle is followed by a bearish candle that opens above the prior high and closes below the midpoint of the bullish body.

What It Indicates

Sellers are gaining control and buyers are struggling to maintain higher prices; a downward move may begin.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the second (bearish) candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the second candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish follow-through below the second candle's low.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the pattern high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 7: Bearish Harami



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Small candle inside previous body	Context	After an advance and preferably near resistance.

How to Identify

Large bullish candle followed by a smaller bearish candle whose body forms within the first candle's body.

What It Indicates

Buying momentum may be slowing, sellers may be entering and the uptrend may be weakening.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the second candle, after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the large first candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish price action breaks the second candle's low.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the pattern high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 8: Bearish Harami Cross



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Doji inside previous body	Context	After an advance and preferably at resistance.

How to Identify

Large bullish candle followed by a doji whose range/body is contained within the first candle's body.

What It Indicates

Slowing buying momentum and indecision after an advance.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the doji, after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the large first candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish candle breaks the Harami Cross low.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the pattern high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 9: Bearish Kicker



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Strong bearish shift
Key feature	Gap between candles	Context	The gap and strong bearish candle are central to the pattern.

How to Identify

Bullish candle followed by a strongly bearish candle that opens significantly lower, creating a gap, then continues downward.

What It Indicates

Sharp shift from buying to selling pressure and a strong change in sentiment.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the bearish Kicker candle's low after the gap is established.
Stop-loss	Above the bearish Kicker candle's high; the gap area can also be monitored.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Price continues lower and holds below the bearish gap; volume can add strength.
Invalidation	Failure of the bearish gap followed by a move above the pattern structure.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 10: Tweezer Top



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Similar or matching highs	Context	Best when the repeated high aligns with resistance.

How to Identify

Two candles after an advance with highs at or near the same level; body colors and sizes may differ.

What It Indicates

Repeated rejection of higher prices; resistance is holding and price is struggling to move higher.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the lower of the two candle lows / confirmation candle.
Stop-loss	Above the shared or highest Tweezer Top high.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish move away from the matched highs.
Invalidation	A decisive break above the shared high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 11: Bearish Meeting Lines



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	2	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Second candle closes near previous close	Context	After an advance, especially near resistance.

How to Identify

A bullish candle is followed by a bearish candle (often after a gap up) that closes near the first candle's closing price.

What It Indicates

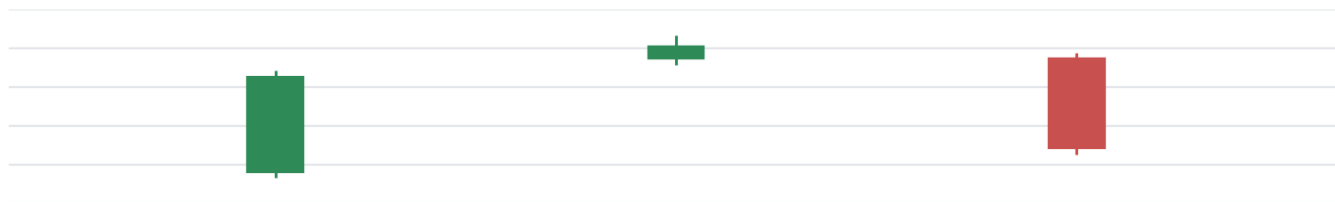
Upward momentum may be weakening and sellers are challenging buyers.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the second (bearish) candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the second candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Further price declines below the second candle's low, especially near resistance.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the second candle's high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 12: Evening Star



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Bullish, small, bearish sequence	Context	After an advance, especially near resistance.

How to Identify

Bullish candle, followed by a small-bodied candle, followed by a bearish candle that closes well into the first candle's body.

What It Indicates

Potential bearish reversal; the middle candle shows uncertainty and buying momentum weakening.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third bearish candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the middle (star) candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	The third candle closes strongly bearish and price breaks its low.
Invalidation	Price rises above the star high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 13: Evening Doji Star



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Doji between bullish and bearish candles	Context	After an advance and preferably around resistance.

How to Identify

Bullish candle, followed by a doji, followed by a bearish candle moving well into the first candle's body.

What It Indicates

Potential reversal; the doji highlights indecision at the top and growing selling control.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third bearish candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the doji star.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish follow-through below the third candle's low.
Invalidation	Price rises above the doji high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 14: Three Black Crows



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Bearish momentum
Key feature	Three consecutive bearish candles	Context	Can appear after an advance or during a developing bearish move.

How to Identify

Three consecutive bearish candles, generally with strong bodies, each closing lower than the previous one and opening within or near the prior body.

What It Indicates

Sustained selling pressure and potentially strengthening bearish momentum.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third crow, or on a controlled pullback that fails.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the first crow (a tighter option is above the second crow's high).
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Continuation below the third candle's low; check volume and nearby support.
Invalidation	A decisive reversal above the formation's key high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 15: Three Inside Down



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Harami followed by bearish confirmation	Context	After an advance and preferably near resistance.

How to Identify

Bullish first candle, smaller second candle within its body, followed by a bearish third candle that closes below the first candle's low.

What It Indicates

A gradual shift from buying toward selling pressure.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third bearish confirmation candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the large first candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Third candle confirms the reversal and price breaks its low.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the formation high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 16: Three Outside Down



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Engulfing pattern followed by bearish candle	Context	After an advance and preferably near resistance.

How to Identify

Bullish first candle, bearish second candle that completely engulfs its body, followed by a third bearish confirmation candle.

What It Indicates

A stronger initial shift in selling pressure than Three Inside Down.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third bearish candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the engulfing (second) candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Third candle continues the bearish move.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the formation high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 17: Advance Block



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential pullback / reversal
Key feature	Three bullish candles with weakening momentum	Context	Forms during an uptrend; most useful near resistance.

How to Identify

Three bullish candles, each closing higher but with smaller bodies and/or longer upper shadows.

What It Indicates

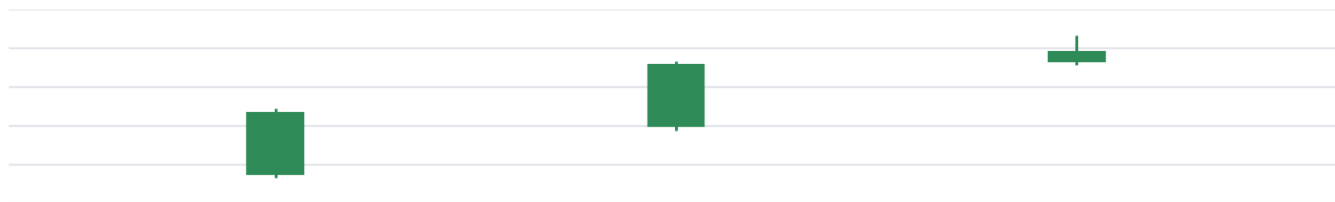
Buyers are losing momentum and selling pressure may be increasing; a pullback or reversal is possible.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third candle, after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the third candle.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	A bearish candle breaks below the third candle's low.
Invalidation	Price makes a new high above the third candle.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 18: Deliberation Pattern



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential pullback / reversal
Key feature	Two strong candles then a small third candle	Context	Forms during an uptrend; check nearby resistance.

How to Identify

Usually three bullish candles; the first two are strong and the final candle is small and shows limited progress.

What It Indicates

The upward move is slowing and buyers may be losing strength; a pullback may occur.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third candle, after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the third candle (or above nearby resistance for a safer stop).
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish price action closes below the third candle's low.
Invalidation	Price rises above the third candle's high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 19: Bearish Abandoned Baby



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Doji separated by gaps	Context	After an advance; the gap structure is an important part of the pattern.

How to Identify

Bullish candle, isolated doji, then bearish candle; the doji is separated from the surrounding candles by gaps.

What It Indicates

Potential bearish reversal, with loss of buying momentum and a sharp change in sentiment.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third bearish candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the doji.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	Bearish third candle and continuation below its low.
Invalidation	Price breaks above the doji high or decisively fails the gap structure.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 20: Falling Three Methods



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	5	Signal	Continuation
Key feature	Contained three-candle pullback within bearish candle	Context	Established downtrend; the corrective candles should remain contained within the initial bearish candle's range.

How to Identify

A strong bearish candle is followed by several smaller bullish candles that remain within the first candle's range. A final bearish candle then resumes the downtrend and closes below the earlier low.

What It Indicates

Temporary pullback followed by continuation of an existing downtrend.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the final bearish candle.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the first long bearish candle (a tighter option is above the highest high of the small candles).
Target	Next support or a continuation objective based on chart structure.
Confirmation	Final bearish candle closes below the first candle's low.
Invalidation	The pullback breaks decisively above the initial bearish candle's high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 21: Bearish Side-by-Side White Lines



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Continuation
Key feature	Two similar bullish candles after a gap down	Context	Established downtrend with a meaningful downward gap.

How to Identify

After a bearish candle, price gaps down and prints two similar bullish candles that open at a similar level.

What It Indicates

A temporary rebound; buyers lack the strength to reverse the trend, so the downtrend may continue.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the lowest low of the two white candles, after renewed selling.
Stop-loss	Above the highest high of the two white candles (just inside the gap).
Target	Next support or a continuation objective based on chart structure.
Confirmation	Renewed selling appears after the bullish candles.
Invalidation	The gap is closed and price breaks above the white candles' high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

Pattern 22: Bearish Tri-Star



Illustrative structure — green = bullish, red = bearish

Candles	3	Signal	Potential reversal
Key feature	Three consecutive Doji candles	Context	After an advance; signals deep market uncertainty.

How to Identify

Three Doji candles in a row; the middle Doji gaps above the first and the third gaps back below the middle one.

What It Indicates

Buyers are losing momentum and market uncertainty is increasing; a bearish reversal is possible.

Trading Setup

Trading element	Rule for this pattern
Entry	Below the low of the third Doji, after bearish confirmation.
Stop-loss	Above the high of the middle Doji.
Target	Next support or previous swing low; alternatively a predefined risk-reward target.
Confirmation	A bearish candle appears after the three Doji candles.
Invalidation	Price rises above the middle Doji high.

Risk note: A pattern can fail even when its structure is clear. Use the invalidation level, market context and position sizing to define risk before entering.

22-Pattern Bearish Candlestick Cheat Sheet

Pattern	Candles	General Signal	Key Feature
Shooting Star	1	Potential reversal	Small body with long upper shadow
Hanging Man	1	Potential reversal	Small body near the top with long lower shadow
Gravestone Doji	1	Potential reversal	Long upper shadow with little/no body
Bearish Marubozu	1	Bearish momentum	Large bearish body with minimal shadows
Bearish Engulfing	2	Potential reversal	Bearish body engulfs previous body
Dark Cloud Cover	2	Potential reversal	Bearish candle moves into previous bullish body
Bearish Harami	2	Potential reversal	Small candle inside previous body
Bearish Harami Cross	2	Potential reversal	Doji inside previous body
Bearish Kicker	2	Strong bearish shift	Gap between candles
Tweezer Top	2	Potential reversal	Similar or matching highs
Bearish Meeting Lines	2	Potential reversal	Second candle closes near previous close
Evening Star	3	Potential reversal	Bullish, small, bearish sequence
Evening Doji Star	3	Potential reversal	Doji between bullish and bearish candles
Three Black Crows	3	Bearish momentum	Three consecutive bearish candles
Three Inside Down	3	Potential reversal	Harami followed by bearish confirmation
Three Outside Down	3	Potential reversal	Engulfing pattern followed by bearish candle
Advance Block	3	Potential pullback / reversal	Three bullish candles with weakening momentum
Deliberation Pattern	3	Potential pullback / reversal	Two strong candles then a small third candle
Bearish Abandoned Baby	3	Potential reversal	Doji separated by gaps
Falling Three Methods	5	Continuation	Contained three-candle pullback within bearish candle
Bearish Side-by-Side White Lines	3	Continuation	Two similar bullish candles after a gap down
Bearish Tri-Star	3	Potential reversal	Three consecutive Doji candles

Final Checklist

- Is the preceding trend appropriate for the pattern?
- Is the pattern near a meaningful support/resistance area?
- Does the candle structure match the pattern?
- Has price provided the required confirmation?
- Where is the logical invalidation level?
- Is the target located at a realistic support/structure level?
- Is the position size appropriate for the amount you are willing to risk?

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