



1. Bulls controlled trading for most of the game.

2. Bears controlled trading for most of the game.

3. Neither team could move the ball and prices finished about where they started.

4. Bears controlledtrading for part of the game, but lost control by the end, Bulls made an impressive comeback.

5. Bulls controlled the ball for part of the game, but lost control by the end, Bears made an impressive comeback.

6. Bears and the Bulls had their moments during the game, but neither could put the other away, resulting a standoff.



The Hammer is a bullish reversal pattern that forms after a decline. In addition to a potential trend reversal, hammers can mark bottoms or support levels. After a decline, hammers signal a bullish revival. The low of the long lower shadow implies that sellers drove prices lower during the session. However, the strong finish indicates that buyers regained their footing to end the session on a strong note. While this may seem like enough to act on, hammers require further bullish confirmation. The low of the hammer shows that plenty of sellers remain. Further buying pressure, and preferably on expanding volume, is needed before acting. Such confirmation could come from a gap up or long white candlestick. Hammers are similar to selling climaxes, and heavy volume can serve to reinforce the validity of the reversal.

The Hanging Man is a bearish reversal pattern that can also mark a top or resistance level. Forming after an advance, a Hanging Man signals that selling pressure is starting to increase. The low of the long lower shadow confirms that sellers pushed prices lower during the session. Even though the bulls regained their footing and drove prices higher by the finish, the appearance of selling pressure raises the yellow flag. As with the Hammer, a Hanging Man requires bearish confirmation before action. Such confirmation can come as a gap down or long black candlestick on heavy volume.



The Shooting Star is a bearish reversal pattern that forms after an advance and in the star position, hence its name. A Shooting Star can mark a potential trend reversal or resistance level. The candlestick forms when prices gap higher on the open, advance during the session, and close well off their highs. The resulting candlestick has a long upper shadow and small black or white body. After a large advance (the upper shadow), the ability of the bears to force prices down raises the yellow flag. To indicate a substantial reversal, the upper shadow should be relatively long and at least 2 times the length of the body. Bearish confirmation is required after the Shooting Star and can take the form of a gap down or long black candlestick on heavy volume.

The Inverted Hammer looks exactly like a Shooting Star, but forms after a decline or downtrend. Inverted Hammers represent a potential trend reversal or support levels. After a decline, the long upper shadow indicates buying pressure during the session. However, the bulls were not able to sustain this buying pressure and prices closed well off of their highs to create the long upper shadow. Because of this failure, bullish confirmation is required before action. An Inverted Hammer followed by a gap up or long white candlestick with heavy volume could act as bullish confirmation.



By using the open of the first candlestick, close of the second candlestick, and high/low of the pattern, a Bullish Engulfing Pattern or Piercing Pattern blends into a Hammer. The long lower shadow of the Hammer signals a potential bullish reversal. As with the Hammer, both the Bullish Engulfing Pattern and the Piercing Pattern require bullish confirmation.

Blending the candlesticks of a Bearish Engulfing Pattern or Dark Cloud Cover Pattern creates a Shooting Star. The long, upper shadow of the Shooting Star indicates a potential bearish reversal. As with the Shooting Star, Bearish Engulfing, and Dark Cloud Cover Patterns require bearish confirmation.



More than two candlesticks can be blended using the same guidelines: open from the first, close from the last and high/low of the pattern. Blending Three White Soldiers creates a long white candlestick and blending Three Black Crows creates a long black candlestick.



Electronic Data Systems (EDS) traded in a range bound by 58 and 75 for about 4 months at the beginning of 2000. Support at 58 was first established in early January, followed by resistance at 75 in late January. The stock declined to its previous support level in early March, forming a long-legged doji and later a spinning top (red circle). Notice that the doji formed immediately after a Marubozu (long black candlestick without upper or lower shadows). This doji marked a sudden decrease in relative selling pressure and support held. Support was tested again in April and this test was also marked by a long-legged doji (blue arrow).



Broadcom (BRCM) formed a bullish engulfing pattern to mark a new support level just below 210 (green oval) in late July 2000. A few days later, a long white candlestick formed and engulfed the previous 4 candlesticks. The combination of the bullish engulfing and long white candlestick served to reinforce the validity of support around 208. The stock has since tested support around 208 once in early September and twice in October. A piercing pattern (red arrow) formed in early October and a large hammer in late October.



Medtronic (MDT) established support around 46 in late February with a spinning top (red arrow) and early March with a harami. The stock declined sharply in April and formed a hammer to confirm support at 46 (1st green arrow). After a reaction rally to resistance around 57, the stock declined sharply and again found support around 46 (blue arrow).