FREE GUIDE **1 OF 3** · THE VOCABULARY, FROM ZERO

1 • The Sweep and the Reclaim

Two candles and one level. This guide builds the pattern we call a **C2** from nothing — no prior knowledge assumed, no indicator required, no term used before it has been given. By the end you should be able to point at one on a bare chart, say why it is one, and say why the part that looks dramatic is not the part that tells you the attempt failed.

01 One candle leaves two levels

A candle is a record of four numbers over a fixed slice of time: where price opened, the highest it traded, the lowest it traded, and where it closed when the slice ran out. The body is the span between open and close. The wicks are the rest — ground price covered and then gave back.

Two of those four numbers are the subject of this guide: the **high** and the **low**. They are not merely the outline of a shape. Each marks the furthest price managed in that direction before it stopped managing it. A high is where buying ran out of room. A low is where selling did.

Because both are plainly visible to everyone looking at the same chart, they collect business. Traders who are short tend to place their protective orders above a high; traders who are long place theirs below a low. People waiting to join a move often wait for the previous extreme to give way first. None of that needs a theory about who is doing it. The practical fact is enough: a candle's high and its low are two prices the market has already turned at once, and orders accumulate just beyond them.

So every closed candle hands the next one a question. There is a high above and a low below. What happens when one of them goes?

THE WHOLE GUIDE IN ONE COMPARISON · A LEVEL IS TAKEN, AND THE CANDLE HAS TO CLOSE SOMEWHERE

Closes beyond the level

The level went and stayed gone. The move through it stood up. This is ordinary — it is most of what a trend is made of — and it is **not** a C2.

Closes back through it

The level went, and could not be held. Price took it and was pushed back over it before the candle ended. This is the **reclaim**, and this is a C2.

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02 Trading through a level is a sweep

When price trades beyond a prior candle's high or low, we say that level has been **swept**. That is the whole of the word: traded through, not approached, not tested near. Orders resting beyond the level are filled in the process — the sells waiting under a low, the buys waiting over a high.

Two things about sweeps are worth being blunt about. The first is that they are completely ordinary. On any market and any timeframe, price runs through prior highs and lows constantly, and most of the time it simply keeps going the same way afterwards. A trend is close to being a definition of that: a sequence of levels taken and not given back.

The second is the whole point of this guide. **A sweep on its own says very little.** It describes what price did. It says nothing about what price then failed to do. Treating a sweep by itself as meaningful means treating something that happens on nearly every candle of a trending market as meaningful.

What is worth waiting for is the market's answer to the sweep. That answer arrives at the close.

03 The reclaim

The candle that swept the level has to finish somewhere, and there are only two places it can finish.

Closes beyond	Below the low it took, or above the high. The level is gone and stays gone; nothing was undone. This is continuation, and there is nothing here to discuss.
Closes back through	Back above the low it just took, or back below the high. Price went for the level, got it, and could not stay there — all inside one candle.

Why the close, and not the moment price first crossed back? Because the close is the only price in a candle everybody has to accept. Every other price inside the bar was merely available at some point; the close is where the market actually finished. Until the candle ends, a reclaim can be undone by the next tick — and frequently is.

That second case is the **reclaim**. The orders beyond the level were filled, and then the price that filling produced was rejected before the candle was over. An attempt was made and it came apart within the same slice of time.

Sweep and reclaim, in that order, on one candle, is what we call a **C2**. The candle doing the sweeping and the reclaiming is the second of the pair — hence the 2. The candle before it, the one whose high or low is being taken, we call **C1**. The pattern is always a pair, read left to right, and it is only ever true at a close.

It is worth being precise about which part of a candle does which job. The **sweep** is done by the wick — the excursion out beyond the level. The **reclaim** is done by the close — where the body finishes. One candle can therefore contain both, which is exactly why the pattern needs only two.

> **A sweep tells you a level went. Only the reclaim tells you the market could not keep it.**

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04 What that looks like on a real chart

Below is one, on one-hour candles, with the three facts numbered in the order they became true. Nothing on the chart is drawn by hand: the red line sits exactly at C1's low, and the teal line at the close that reclaimed it.

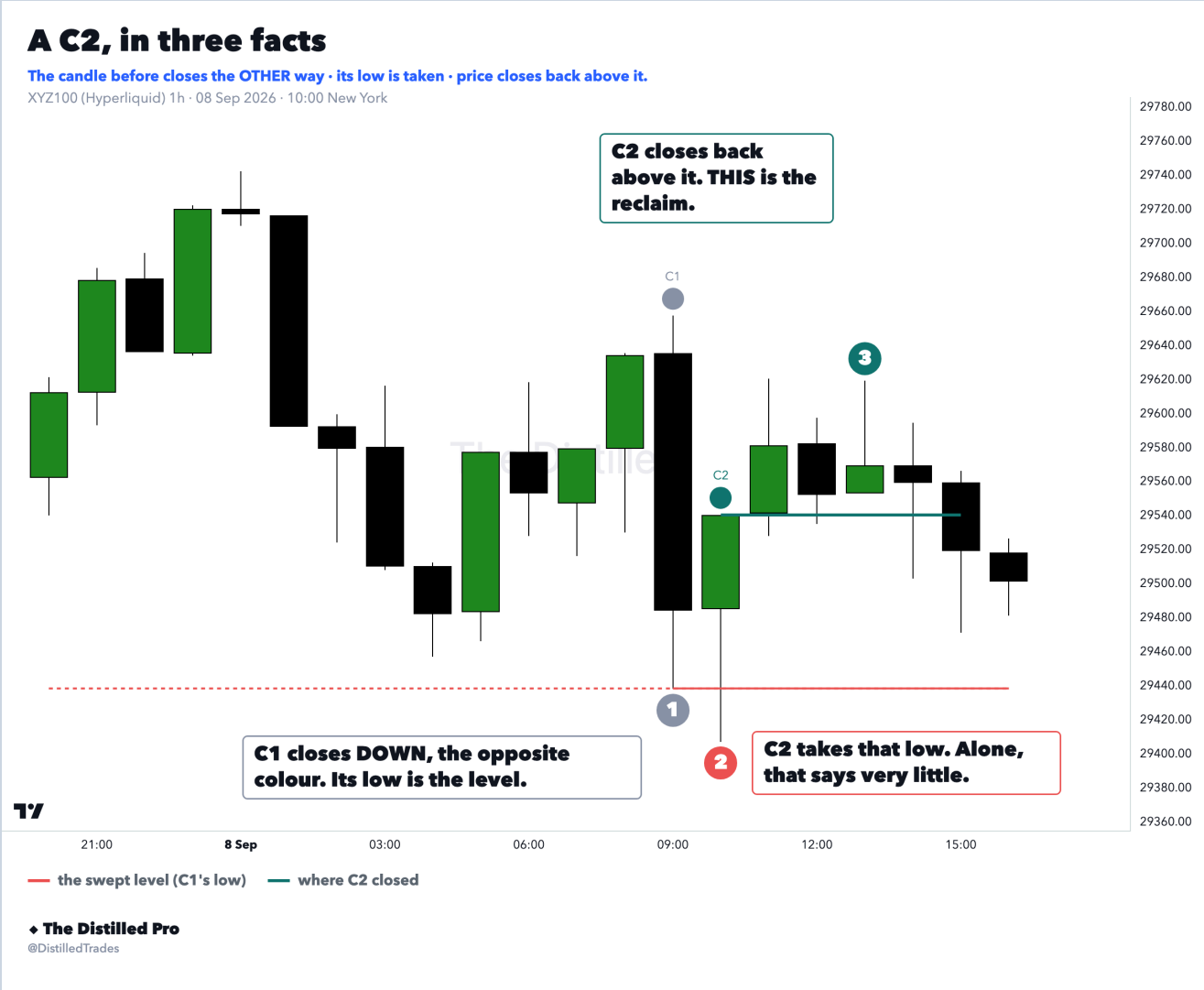


FIGURE 1 XYZ100 (Hyperliquid), one-hour candles, 8 September 2026, New York time. **1** – C1 (09:00) closes down, so its low, 29,438, is the level. **2** – the 10:00 candle trades below it, to 29,407: the long lower wick is the sweep. **3** – the same candle closes back above, at 29,540. Read the wick and the body separately and the story is plain: the excursion below happened, and none of it survived to the close.

Notice what the figure does not need in order to be read. No indicator, no oscillator, no line drawn from anywhere else on the chart. The level came from the previous candle, and the verdict came from the close of the one after it. Two candles, one price.

Notice as well how far the wick travels compared with where the candle ends. That gap between what was reached and what was kept is the substance of the pattern – and there is no minimum size on it in the definition, only a direction.

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05 The colour condition

One more requirement belongs to the definition itself, not to anybody's refinement of it, and it is the part most often left out when this pattern is described: **C1 must close the opposite way to the turn being made.**

Upside turn C1 closes **down**, and it is C1's **low** that gets swept and reclaimed.

Downside turn C1 closes **up**, and it is C1's **high** that gets swept and reclaimed.

That condition is what stops the pattern being trivial. A down-closing candle is a finished statement in one direction, and its low is the furthest that statement got. When the very next candle pushes below that low and then closes back above it, the market has run the previous candle's logic to its end, taken what was resting there, and refused it – inside a single candle. Drop the condition and you are only describing a candle that dipped and recovered, which is a shape rather than a disagreement.



FIGURE 2 GOLD (Hyperliquid), one-hour candles, 10 September 2026, New York time: the same three facts in a mirror. C1 (01:00) closes **up**, so its **high**, 4,432.4, is the level; the 02:00 candle's wick takes it, to 4,435.5, and the candle closes back below, at 4,425.8. The panel (D HTF) is the daily chart on the same price scale: 10 September was itself a daily C2, just. Its high took 9 September's 4,435.0 by half a point, and the day closed at 4,322.1.

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06 The same shape, minus the reclaim

Here is why the last two sections spent so long on a close. The chart below is the same market as Figure 2, the same day, two hours later, and every ingredient but one is present: a candle closes one way; the next takes its low; the sweep is real, through the level, everything resting beyond it filled. Anyone watching only for sweeps saw what they had seen two hours before.

Then the candle closed **beyond** the level instead of back through it, and price carried on down for the rest of the session.



FIGURE 3 GOLD (Hyperliquid), one-hour candles, 10 September 2026, two hours after Figure 2. **1** – C1 (03:00) is the opposite colour; its low, 4,406.4, is the level. **2** – the 04:00 candle takes it, to 4,395.7: a genuine sweep, the same first move a C2 begins with. **3** – it closes below the level, at 4,397.6, and leaves it there. No reclaim, no C2. Same daily panel as Figure 2.

That is not a C2 that went wrong. It is not a C2 at all: the definition was never satisfied, because it ends at the close. Put the two figures side by side and the asymmetry is the lesson. The sweep is the common part, present in both and all over every chart you will ever open. The reclaim is the less common part, and the only one that reports a failure.

It is also why "price swept the lows" is a weak thing to say on its own. It is true constantly, in the middle of the strongest trend you have ever seen.

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07 C2X – the same turn, confirmed late

Markets do not always finish the job inside one candle. Sometimes the candle that sweeps C1's level closes *beyond* it: no reclaim, no C2 at that close. The turn can still arrive – but only on the very next candle, and only by clearing a far higher bar than a C2 ever has to clear. When it does, the result is a **C2X**: the X for extended.

The level is still C1's original high or low. Nothing is moved or redrawn to make the pattern fit, and the pattern stays anchored where it started. What changes is not where the level sits but what the confirming close is required to do – and that is the part almost every description of this pattern leaves too loose.

It is **not** enough for some later candle to close back through the level. Taking the upside case, where C1 closed down and its low is the level, all four of these have to be true:

C2X · FOUR CONDITIONS, AND ALL FOUR ARE REQUIRED

1. **The sweep.** The candle after C1 trades below C1's low – the same first move a C2 makes.
2. **No reclaim on its own bar.** That same candle closes **at or below** C1's low. It fails the C2 test, and that failure is precisely what makes this an X rather than a C2. A close sitting exactly on the level counts as a failure: it did not get back above.
3. **The very next candle closes above the sweeping candle's high.** Not above the level – above the top of the whole candle that took it, wick included. And it has to be the next candle, not one some way further along.
4. **And above that same candle's open.** Stated for completeness: a candle's open is never above its own high, so anything that satisfies condition three has already satisfied this one. Condition three is what does the work.

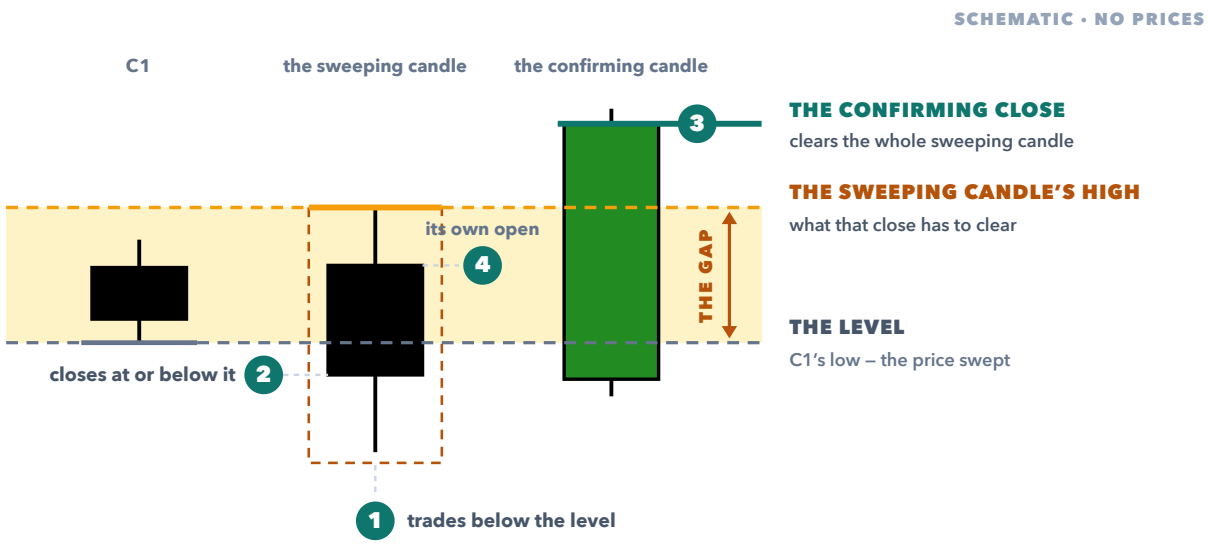
Condition three is the whole point, and it is far stricter than "closes back through" makes it sound. The reclaim has to clear the **entire sweeping candle** – not the level that candle swept, but everything it managed, all the way to the tip of its upper wick. That is normally a good deal higher than the level, and it is a much higher bar than the loose version of the rule ever asks for.

Downside is the mirror. The sweeping candle trades above C1's high and closes **at or above** it, and then the next candle closes below that candle's **low** – and below its open.

One rule from earlier does **not** carry over, and it is an easy one to import by mistake. The colour condition in section 05 belongs to the C2. The four conditions above are the whole of the C2X test, and none of them asks which way C1 closed.

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That is a rule about geometry, and geometry is easier to see than to read. Below is the upside case drawn, with each of the four conditions marked at the point it becomes true.



1. The candle after C1 **trades below** C1's low.
2. That same candle **closes at or below** it. No reclaim – and that failure is what makes it an X.
3. The **very next** candle closes above the **sweeping candle's high** – the amber line.
4. And above that candle's own **open**, which condition 3 has already cleared.

> Condition three does not ask for a close back above the level. It asks for a close above the top of the **whole sweeping candle** – the far side of the shaded gap, wick included. That sits a good deal higher than the level itself, and it is the part the loose version of this rule leaves out.

DIAGRAM 1 The upside case, drawn. The lower line is the level – C1's low. The higher line is the top of the candle that swept it, and condition three asks the confirming close to clear *that*. Downside is the same drawing turned over.

And here are the two patterns beside each other, against the same level.

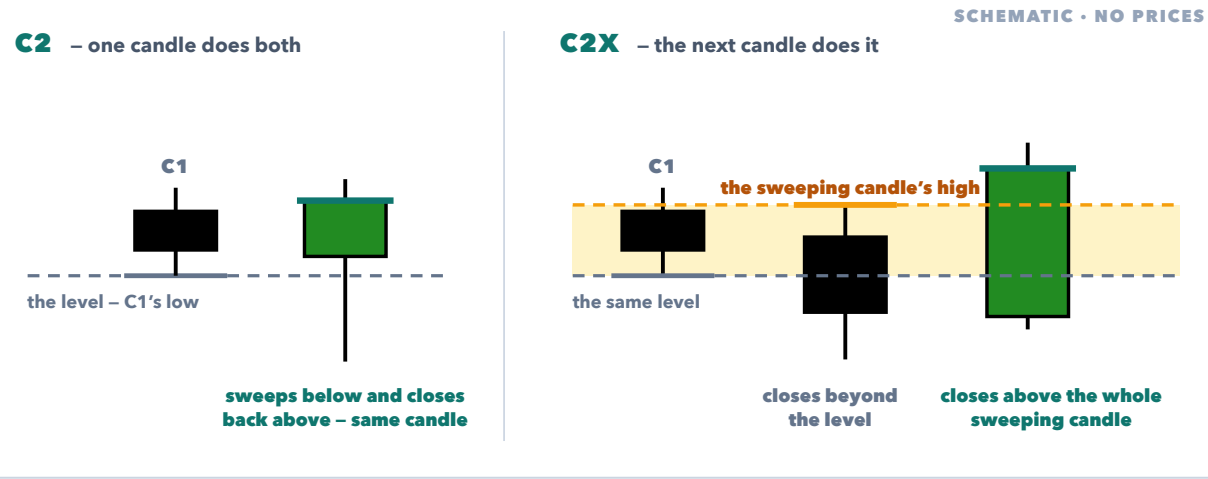


DIAGRAM 2 The same level, the same first move, the same colours – so the only thing that moves between the two panels is which candle closes back through, and how far that close has to travel to count.

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08 C2X, on a real chart

The figure below is one, with the four conditions numbered where they became true. The two horizontal lines are the ones that matter: the red one is the level, and the amber one is the top of the candle that swept it. Note the gap between them: here it is wider than the whole sweep below the level.

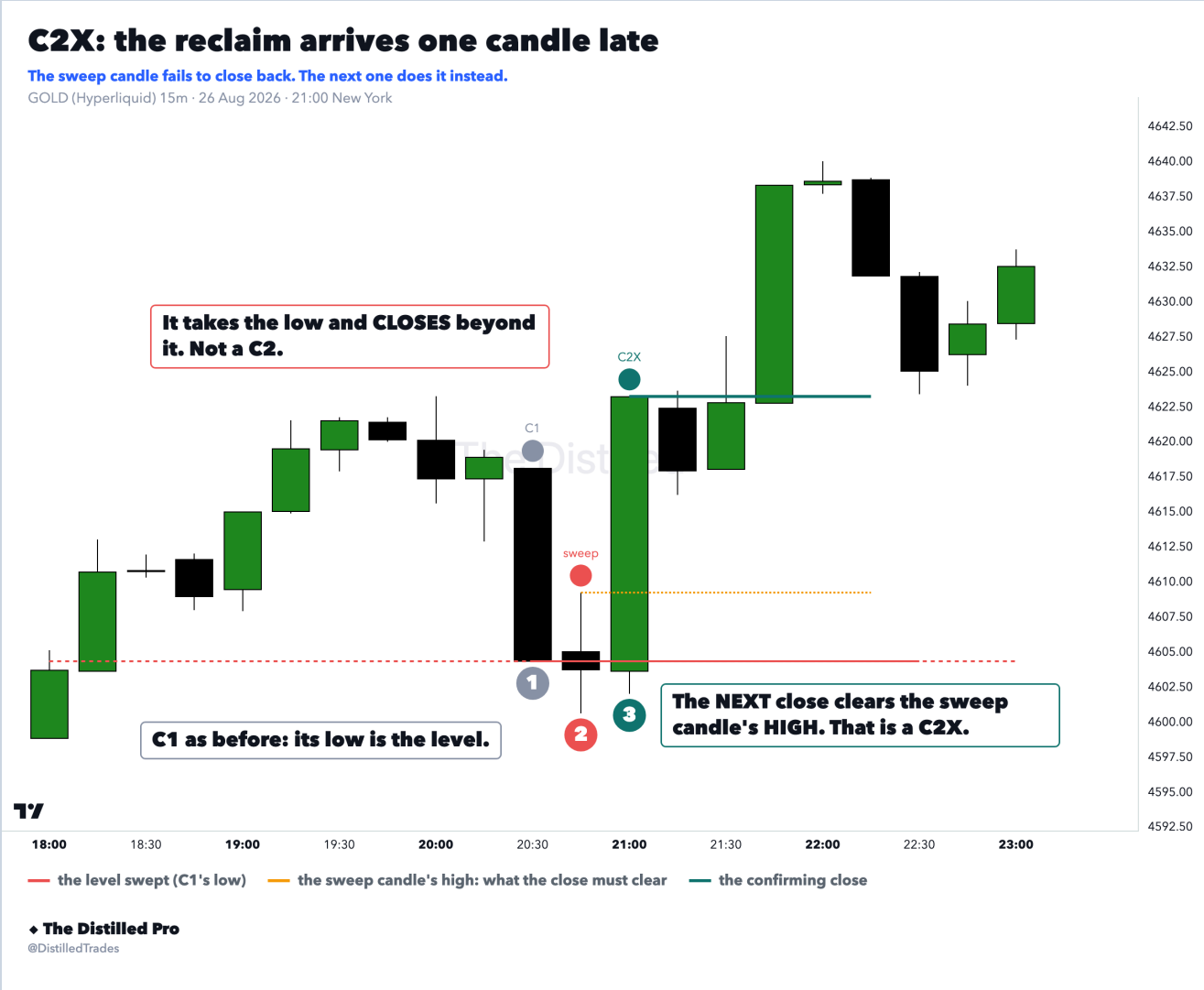


FIGURE 4 GOLD (Hyperliquid), fifteen-minute candles, 26 August 2026, New York time. **1** – C1 (20:30); the red line at its low, 4,604.3, is the level. **2** – the 20:45 candle trades below it, to 4,600.6, and closes below it too, at 4,603.7: conditions one and two, so at that close this is not a C2. **3** – the 21:00 candle closes at 4,623.2, above the amber line at 4,609.2, the sweeping candle's own high rather than the level. That is condition three, and that is what makes it a C2X.

Two things follow. A C2X is confirmed later than a C2, and being later is the cost of it. And a candle that closes beyond the level it swept has not settled anything permanently – it has only declined to settle it yet.

Whether you treat C2 and C2X as one thing or two is a choice, and choices like that belong to whatever you go on to build. The definitions only tell you which is which.

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09 What a C2 does not tell you

A definition you can over-read is worse than none, so here is the boundary.

A C2 is a **description, not a forecast**. It reports that an attempt on a level failed inside a candle. It does not say what comes next, how far anything travels, or whether a turn is beginning rather than pausing. Price can reclaim a level, go quiet, and come back an hour later to take it properly. That does not make the C2 false; it makes it a completed piece of structure whose consequence was small.

A C2 also carries no idea of **size**. Nothing in the three facts asks the sweep to be deep or the reclaim to be decisive. Two sleepy candles produce them, and so do two candles either side of a data release.

One small precision, since it settles most borderline cases: the level is C1's **high or low** – the tip of the wick, not where the body ends. If C1 closed down, the level is the lowest price it traded, even where its body finished well above that. The body chose which of the two levels counts; the wick supplies the price.

A C2 belongs to the **timeframe it was found on**. One pair of one-hour candles is eight fifteen-minute candles, and down there the sweep and the reclaim may be spread across four separate bars with no adjacent pair satisfying anything. Neither reading is wrong. A C2 is a statement about a particular pair of candles at a particular resolution, and changing the resolution changes which pairs exist at all.

And on its own a C2 says nothing about **context**. The same pattern occurs at the end of a long run, in the middle of a quiet range, and against a level nobody was watching. Where one happens is a separate question from whether one happened – and it is the question the rest of this series takes up.

10 Finding one by hand

You need nothing but a chart with candles on it – no indicator, no drawing tools, no settings to choose. Take any candle and work through these four questions in order. Each one has a yes or a no for an answer; none of them asks for a judgement.

FOUR QUESTIONS, ONE PAIR OF CANDLES AT A TIME

1. **Which candle is C1?** The one immediately before the candle you are examining. Note whether it closed up or down, and note its high and its low.
2. **Which level is in play?** If C1 closed down, the level is its low. If C1 closed up, the level is its high. Only ever one of the two, and C1's colour chooses it.
3. **Was it swept?** Did the next candle actually trade through that price – not near it, not to it, through it?
4. **Where did that candle close?** Back through the level is a C2. At or beyond it is not – and if the very next candle then closes clear of that whole candle, above its high on an upside turn or below its low on a downside one, you have a C2X instead.

Run that across a few dozen pairs of candles and two things become obvious quickly. Question 3 is answered "yes" far more often than you would expect. Question 4 is the one that separates a C2 from an ordinary sweep.

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11 Where this goes next

You will have noticed there is nothing in these pages about what to *do* when you find one. That is deliberate. A C2 is a piece of vocabulary, and the questions worth asking of it – where it sits, what it interrupts, what it points at – need the rest of the sentence before they can be asked properly.

Once you can see a C2, the next question is where in a move it sits – and that needs a second kind of level, defined not by a wick but by an open. That is guide two.

THE DEFINITION, IN ONE PLACE

1. **C1** – the candle before. Which way it closed chooses the level: closed down, the level is its **low**; closed up, the level is its **high**.
2. **The sweep** – the next candle trades through that level.
3. **The reclaim** – that same candle closes back through the level. Sweep and reclaim together are a **C2**.
4. **C2X** – the sweeping candle closes **at or beyond** the level instead, and then the very next candle closes clear of that candle's whole range: above its **high** on an upside turn, below its **low** on a downside one. Not merely back through the level.

The three guides, in order:

1. **The Sweep and the Reclaim** – this one. What a C2 is: C1's level, the sweep, the close back through, and C2X when the close comes late.
2. **Change in State of Delivery** – a level defined by the open of the first candle of the run that delivered a move, rather than by a wick. What it means when price closes back through it, and what the breaker zone is.
3. **Putting Them Together** – the sequence, in order, and how to read it live on a bare chart with nothing drawn on it.

Each guide stands on its own. Read in order, they are one idea.

Everything above is free, and chartable by hand.

The three facts are the whole of it, and every figure in this guide is real Hyperliquid data. **The Distilled Pro** marks C2 and C2X on a chart automatically – along with the levels guides two and three go on to build – so you are not checking candle pairs one at a time. That is the only difference, and the only claim we make for it.

SCAN

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