FREE SERIES · THE VOCABULARY EVERYTHING ELSE ASSUMES · 3 · PUTTING THEM TOGETHER

Putting them together

The first guide took apart one candle: a level goes, and price closes back through it. The second took apart one number: the open of the candle that started the run which delivered a move. This guide is about the **order they arrive in** – because read in order, they stop being two patterns and become one sentence about what the market just tried, and failed, to do.

01 The sequence, in four sentences

Nothing below is new. It is the same two ideas in the order a chart delivers them, with the job each one does written next to it.

ONE READ, FOUR STEPS

1. **Liquidity is taken.** A level that orders sit beyond – at its simplest, the previous candle's high or low – is traded through. On its own this tells you almost nothing. Price reaches for levels constantly, and most of the time reaching is all it is doing.
2. **The reclaim says the attempt failed.** The candle that took the level closes back on the side it came from. Whoever pushed through could not hold it for the length of one candle. That close is the C2, and it is the part that tells you the attempt failed – not the sweep.
3. **The CISD says delivery changed.** Behind the move that ran into the level was a run of candles all closing the same way. The open of the first of them is the CISD. A close back through that open means the run has been undone at its own origin.
4. **Now the read has a direction, and a level that invalidates it.** The direction is the one the reclaim and the close-through both point at – a description of what just happened, not a forecast. The level is the extreme of the sweep – the furthest price got while the failed attempt was still being made. If price closes beyond that again, the same chart that produced the read has withdrawn it.

02 If you arrived here first

Each guide in this series stands on its own, so here are the two words in a line each. **C2** – the previous candle closes one way; the next candle takes its high or its low and closes back through it. When the sweeping candle closes beyond that level instead of reclaiming it, and the very next candle closes past the whole of that sweeping candle – beyond its high, not merely back past the level – it is a **C2X**. And **CISD** – change in state of delivery: the open of the first candle of the run that delivered a move, and a close back through it.

What follows is two real charts read end to end, a third where the same reading did not hold, an honest look at what makes a case unclear, and a short list of things to practise. No part of it requires software.

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03 One chart, all the way through

Those four beats, drawn, before a real chart carries them.

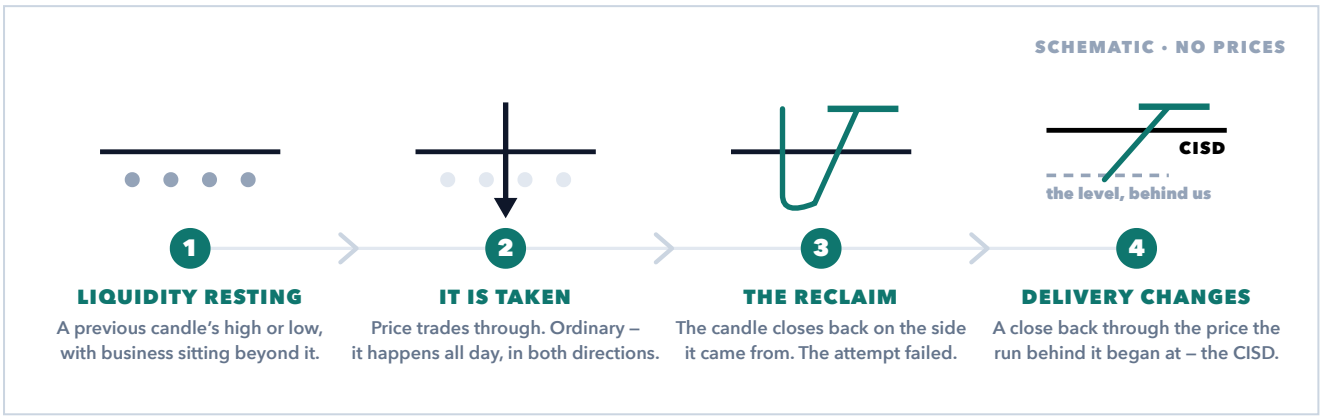


DIAGRAM 1 The sequence, abstracted – no candles, because the beats are not candle-shaped. Left to right is the order a chart delivers them, and the order is the whole of the idea.

XYZ100, four-hour candles, the week of 15 June 2026. Everything named below is on the chart; nothing has been added to it except labels. Read it the way the market printed it – left to right, one candle at a time.

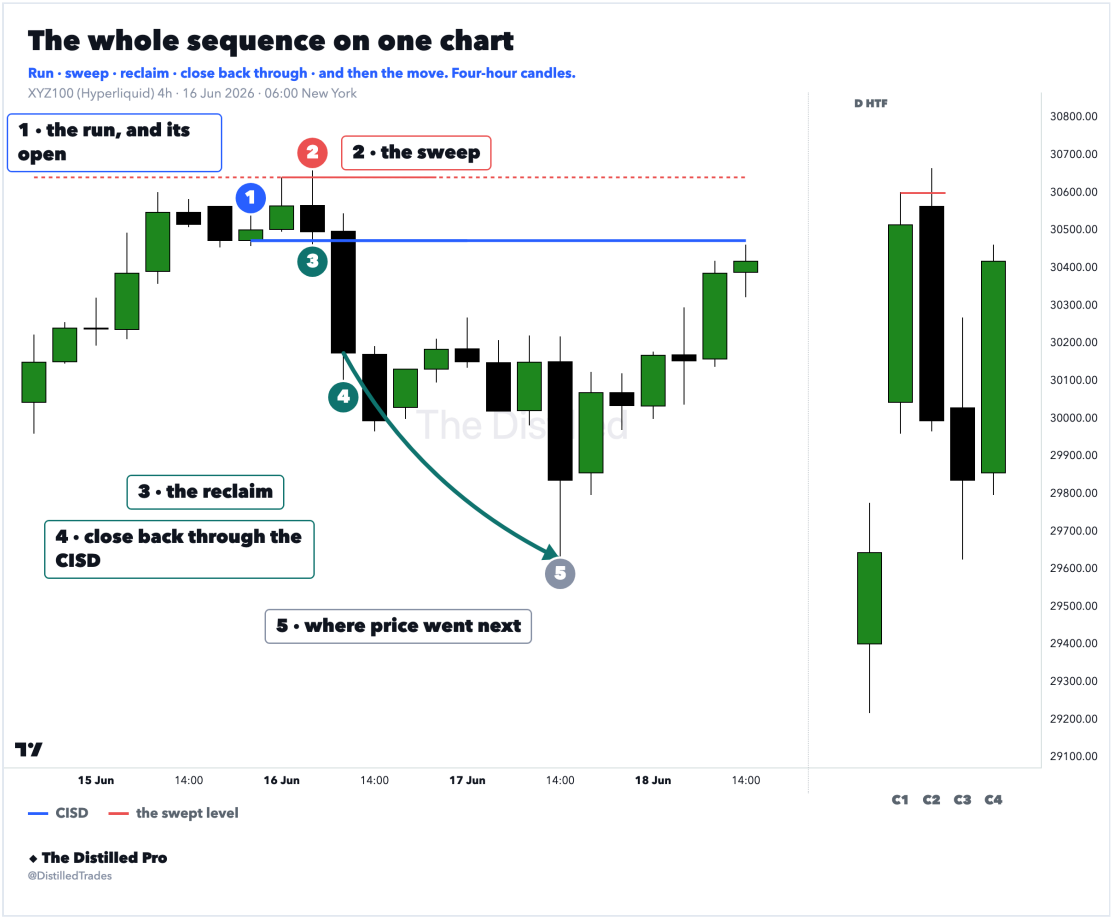


Figure 1. XYZ100 (Hyperliquid), four-hour candles · 16 June 2026, New York time. Blue is the open of the run; red is the level the reclaim refers to. The five numbered steps are the sequence set out in section 01, in the order they arrived. The panel on the right (D HTF) is the daily chart, C1 to C4: 16 June was itself a C2 against 15 June's high of 30,599, and the 30,663 sweep was that day's high.

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1 • The run, and its open. Two four-hour candles closed up in a row — 22:00 on 15 June and 02:00 on 16 June — and the candle before them closed down, which is what makes the run start where it does. The first of the two opened at **30,470**. That is the CISD. It is not a level anyone chose: it is simply where the candle that began the push happened to open.

2 • The sweep. The last candle of that run, 02:00, closed up with a high of **30,638**. That high is what the next candle has to deal with, because it is the previous candle's extreme. At 06:00 price went through it, to 30,663. Liquidity above 30,638 has been taken. Stop reading here and you know very little — this happens all day, in both directions, on every timeframe.

3 • The reclaim. The 06:00 candle closed at **30,494** — back below 30,638, the level it had just taken. That is the reclaim, and it is the first thing on this chart that says anything at all. The market went above the high, spent the rest of four hours failing to stay there, and finished the candle underneath it. In the vocabulary of guide 1, that candle is a C2.

4 • Delivery changed. So far the statement is local: one candle failed to hold one level. The next candle, 10:00, closed at **30,171** — below 30,470. The two candles that delivered the whole push from 30,470 up to 30,638 have now been closed back through at the price the first of them opened. That is the CISD, and it is what the read calls a change of direction.

Notice the order, because it is the part most explanations skip. The reclaim close, 30,494, is below the swept level but *still above* the CISD. These are two separate events, one candle apart, and they say different things. The reclaim says the attempt failed. The close through 30,470 says the run that built the attempt has been given back.

5 • A direction, and a level that invalidates it. Direction: down. The level: **30,663**, the high of the sweep — the furthest price reached while it was still trying. What was on the other side? On 15 June this market had left lows at 30,192 and 30,209, and the week had opened on the Sunday evening at a low of 29,958. The first two went on the 10:00 candle of 16 June, the one that closed through the CISD; the third went at 14:00 on 17 June, and price carried on to 29,624 before it turned back up.

04 Where the obvious levels are

Step 5 has a second half that is worth stating on its own. Once the read has a direction, the next question is "how far", and on a bare chart that usually becomes *where has this market left business unfinished*. Highs and lows that were made and then abandoned are where resting orders are assumed to sit. Those are the obvious places to aim. How often price gets there is mostly a matter of distance: across our research on other data, a target k times the risk away is reached about 1/(1+k) of the time, whatever kind of level it is. On the XYZ100 chart those were the 15 June lows and the week's opening low, sitting untouched roughly 300 to 550 points under the reclaim. You do not have to predict that price will reach them. You only have to know they are the obvious thing in that direction, and to have marked them before the move rather than after it.

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05 What the sequence is, and what it is not

Every sentence above is in the past tense, and that is deliberate. The sequence is a description of something that has already finished happening: a level was taken, the attempt to hold it failed, the run behind it was given back at its origin. It contains no forecast. What it does contain — and this is the genuinely useful part — is its own contradiction, written down in advance as a number. 30,663. If the chart closes back beyond it, the description no longer applies, and you find that out from the same chart that gave you the read.

That is also the honest limit of it. The four sentences tell you what has happened and where the market has left liquidity it has not yet been to. They do not tell you that it will go there. The first clean chart in this guide did; the second came within nine points of the high above it and then gave the move back. The two after them were withdrawn outright, and they were no less well formed.

Examples are chosen to teach the pattern. Measured over thousands of cases in our research on other data, entries like this reach 2R about 1 time in 3 — roughly what chance gives at that target.

One more thing about this example, which the next one will contrast. Here the pieces arrived *separately*: the run finished, the following candle swept and reclaimed, the candle after that closed through the CISD. Three candles, three events, in order. Keep that in mind — it turns out to be one of the things that separates a clear case from a murky one.

06 The same read, faster

XYZ100, one-hour candles, 15 September 2026. Same four sentences, same order, on a chart carrying two horizontal lines and nothing else.



Figure 2. XYZ100 (Hyperliquid), one-hour candles · 15 September 2026, New York time. Black is the open of the run, red is the level the reclaim refers to — the only two things drawn.

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The run, and its open. The 02:00, 03:00 and 04:00 candles all closed down; the 01:00 candle closed up, so the run begins at 02:00. It opened at **29,064**. That is the CISD.

The level, and the sweep. The 03:00 candle closed down with a low of **28,987**. At 04:00 price traded through it, down to 28,920.

The reclaim – one candle late, and a higher bar. The 04:00 candle closed at 28,960, still below 28,987. The sweep candle failed to close back through, so there is no C2 here. This is what guide 1 calls a **C2X**, and the next candle has more to do than simply get back above the level. It has to close beyond the whole of the candle that did the sweeping – past its high of **29,002**, some 15 points above the level itself. At 05:00 price closed at **29,023**, clearing that high by 21 points. Same level, same run behind it – but the confirmation arrives a candle later and has to travel further to count.

Delivery changed, and the rest. The 06:00 candle closed at **29,081**, above 29,064. Direction: up. The level that would say otherwise: **28,920**, the low of the sweep. Price rose to 29,166 by 08:00, nine points short of the 29,175 high left the evening before, and then the 10:00 candle gave the whole move back, closing at 28,931 – eleven points above the sweep low. On the chart's own terms the read was never withdrawn that session, but only just. Two lines and four closes – the whole read, on a bare chart.

07 A clean read that did not hold

Every example so far held, which is the trouble with examples. Here is one where each piece is present, correctly identified, in the right order – and the chart withdrew it.



Figure 3. GOLD (Hyperliquid), four-hour candles · 3 June 2026, New York time. Grey is the sweep extreme – the level that would say the read was wrong. On 5 June, price closed below it.

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The read. Two four-hour candles closed down on 3 June, 10:00 and 14:00, the first of them opening at **4,445.0** – the CISD. The last closed down with a low of **4,433.3**. The 18:00 candle traded through that low to **4,426.0** and closed at **4,466.3**: back above 4,433.3, and above 4,445.0 as well. Sweep, reclaim, close through the CISD. Direction up; 4,426.0 says otherwise.

What happened. Price rose to 4,516.7 on the morning of 4 June, just through the 4,509.6 high left on 2 June, then turned; on the 06:00 candle of 5 June it closed at **4,368.8**, below 4,426.0. The chart has withdrawn the read. By the end of that session it was at 4,332.6.

There is nothing wrong with the chart and nothing wrong with the reading. This is what it looks like when an accurate description of the past is followed by something the past did not contain. Any honest treatment of this material has to show it: a reader shown only clean cases concludes, at the first failure, that they did the reading wrong. Usually they did not – but sometimes there was something to notice, and the next section is about that.

08 What makes a case unclear

The 3 June chart deserves more of your attention than either clean one, because three things about it were awkward *at the time* – before anybody knew the outcome. All three are visible in the zoom below, which is the same chart, closer in.

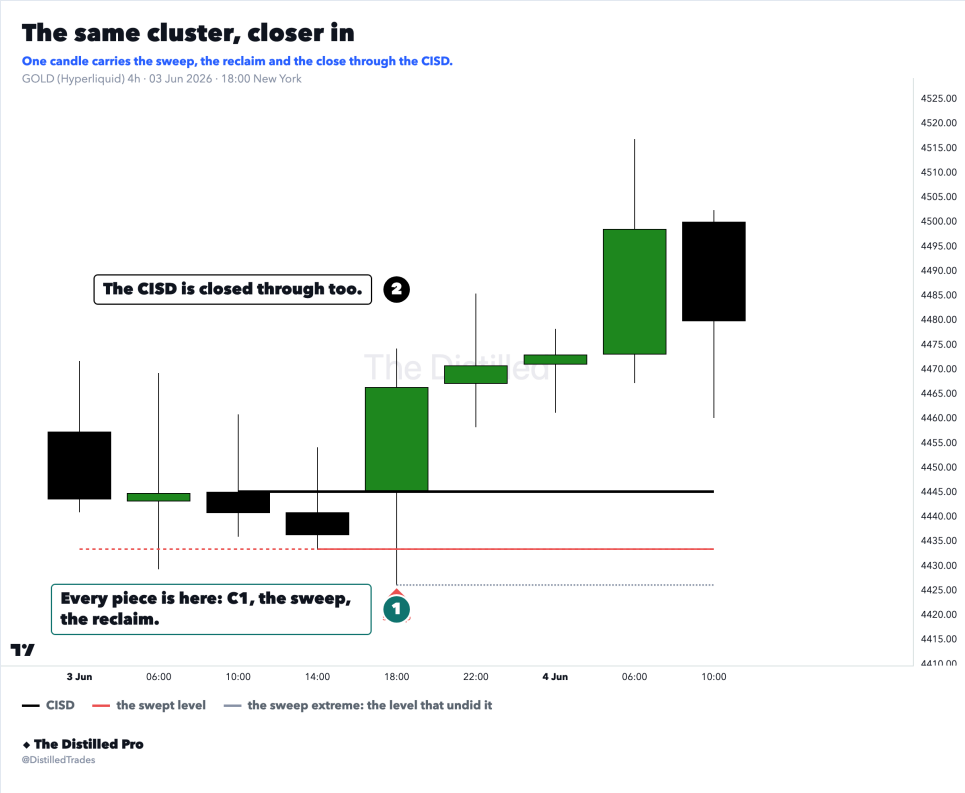


Figure 3a. The same chart, zoomed. Left: the 06:00 low of 3 June standing below the red level. Right: one candle carrying the sweep, the reclaim and the close through the CISD together – which is why both markers point at the same bar, one below it and one above.

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One candle did everything. On the XYZ100 chart the pieces arrived separately, three candles and three events. Here a single four-hour candle opened at 4,445.2, ran down to 4,426.0, up to 4,474.1 and closed at 4,466.3 – sweep, reclaim and CISD close, all inside one bar. Nothing was read as it happened; it was read afterwards, off one object. And the level that would invalidate the read, 4,426.0, is the bottom of that same candle: the read and its own contradiction are one bar. Both cases satisfy the definitions equally. They are not the same situation.

It is also the common case, not a rare one: in our research on other data, about three in four closes through the CISD land on the candle right after the reclaim, and the one-candle version did no worse. What it changes is how much of the read you could have followed as it happened, not the odds.

More than one level was taken. The reclaim refers to 4,433.3, because that is the previous candle's low and that is what the definition says. But the same push also went through the 06:00 low of 3 June at 4,429.3 – visible at the left of the zoom, standing below the red line. So: a failed attempt at 4,433.3, or a completed reach for the older pool just above 4,426.0? The sequence does not settle that, and when one sweep clears several levels it is worth noticing that it doesn't.

The candle began on a jump. C1 closed at 4,436.2 at 17:00; after the daily pause the next candle opened at 4,445.2 – already above the CISD at 4,445.0 before it had traded. The definition still produces the read, but "closed back through the CISD" means less when the candle opened on the far side of it.

None of this is a flaw in the model; it is the ordinary condition of real charts. And it collapses into three questions you can ask of any case in seconds, with nothing drawn: **did the pieces arrive separately or all at once**, **how many levels did that sweep clear**, and **did the close through the CISD happen on the chart, or across a gap**?

09 And again, smaller



Figure 4. XYZ100 (Hyperliquid), fifteen-minute candles · 25 August 2026, New York time. The read completed on the 09:30 close and was withdrawn on the 10:00 close. Four-hour panel, C1 to C4: the 06:00–10:00 candle was still forming when the read completed, and only at 10:00 closed as a bearish C2 against the 02:00 high.

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The read. Two fifteen-minute candles closed down — 09:00 and 09:15 — the first opening at **29,255**. The last had a low of **29,223**. The 09:30 candle traded through it to **29,206** and closed at **29,266**, above 29,255: sweep, reclaim and close through the CISD in one candle. Direction up; 29,206 says otherwise. Two candles later price closed at 29,165, and the session's low, 29,087, came at 10:30.

Something worth noticing. The close that carried the CISD, 29,266, finished eleven points above 29,255 — on a candle that travelled 86 points from low to high, in a market that covered 120 in the very next bar. Ask it in that form — how much of this candle is really on the far side of the level, next to how far this market is currently travelling in one? — and the event reads less like a statement and more like where the clock happened to stop. Not a rule with a number in it, and not something our research on other data found to matter: how decisively the confirming candle closed made no measurable difference to how often the read held. It is a question for your own notes, not a filter.

10 "No read" is an answer

The sequence is a description, and a description you cannot state plainly is not a description. If you cannot say, in one short sentence each, which level was taken, where the reclaim closed, and which run the CISD belongs to — then the honest output is that there is no read here. Not a weak one. None.

This is harder than it sounds, because nobody keeps a record of the charts they passed over, so passing feels like failing. It is not. A chart you have to argue into shape is one you are supplying rather than reading. Some you set aside will go on to do exactly what the sequence describes, and you will watch it happen. That is the price of only taking the ones you can state.

11 What to practise on a bare chart

None of the following involves a decision to buy or sell anything. They are looking exercises. The reading has to become automatic before it is worth much, and it becomes automatic through repetition on charts with nothing drawn on them.

SIX THINGS TO DO WITH A BARE CHART

1. **Mark the previous candle's extremes, and nothing else.** One instrument, one timeframe, one session. On each new candle draw the high and the low of the one before it. You will see quickly how routine it is for those levels to be taken — and how much less routine it is for the candle to close back through.
2. **Say "taken" and "reclaimed" as separate words.** Every time a level goes, say *taken*. Then wait for the close and say either *and reclaimed* or *and gone*. Out loud, for a week. It breaks the habit of reacting to the wick.
3. **Walk back to the start of a run.** Pick any obvious push, on any chart. Walk back to the last candle that closed the other way, mark the open of the candle after it, and then simply watch what price does the first time it comes back to that line. Do it twenty times before forming an opinion.
4. **Cover the right-hand side.** Scroll back a few weeks, cover everything to the right of one candle, and step forward a candle at a time, saying the read before you uncover the next. This is the only way to practise the sequence in the order it actually arrives.

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5. **Compress the read into one sentence.** "Down, and 30,663 says otherwise." If it will not compress, write *no read* and move on — and keep that column. A page with nothing in it means you are not being hard enough on your own reasoning.

6. **Go back to the ones that failed.** Take the reads the chart later withdrew and ask which of the three questions in section 08 you could have asked at the time. Some will have been unanswerable. Those are the ones this whole exercise is for.

Everything in these three guides is free, and all of it can be drawn by hand: a previous candle's high, a previous candle's low, the open of a candle, and a close. The Distilled Pro finds and marks them for you across timeframes, which saves time. It does not make any of them more true. That is the only claim we make for it.

The other two guides are free in the same place.

1 • The Sweep and the Reclaim — what a C2 actually is, and why the reclaim is the part that tells you the attempt failed. **2 • Change in State of Delivery** — the CISD as the open of the first candle of the run, and the breaker zone behind it.

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SCAN

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