

Footprint Reading Checklist

Signal Pilot Education Hub

Footprint Chart Reading Checklist

From Lesson 16: Two Identical Candles, Opposite Outcomes

Use this guide to read footprint charts and see WHO is winning the battle at each price level.

What is a Footprint Chart?

Footprint = Shows buy vs. sell volume at EACH price level within a candle.

Why it matters:

- Two candles can look identical on price chart
- But footprint reveals completely different order flow
- One shows buying strength → continuation
- Other shows selling absorption → potential reversal

The edge: You see what retail can't.



Footprint Chart Basics

What You See:

Each candle shows:

- Price levels (rows)
- Buy volume (green, typically on right)
- Sell volume (red, typically on left)
- Delta (Buy volume - Sell volume)

Example:

Price	Sell	Buy	Delta	
102.50	500	1200	+700	(bullish)
102.25	800	600	-200	(bearish)
102.00	2000	400	-1600	(very bearish)



Step 1: Identify Key Levels

High Volume Nodes (Where the Battle Happened):

- [] **Find price levels with highest volume**
- Large numbers on both buy and sell side
- This is where institutions traded
- [] **Check delta at these levels**
- Positive delta = buyers won
- Negative delta = sellers won

- Large delta = decisive victory
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Point of Control (POC):

- [] **The price with most volume in the candle**
 - This is "fair value" for that period
 - Price tends to return to POC
 - Break above/below POC = directional move
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Step 2: Read Order Flow Patterns

Pattern 1: Buying Strength (Bullish)

What to Look For:

- [] Delta increasing as price rises
- [] Large buy volume at highs
- [] Minimal selling pressure at resistance
- [] Buyers lifting offers aggressively

Candle High:

103.00		200		1500		+1300	← Strong buying
102.75		400		1200		+800	
102.50		600		1000		+400	
102.25		800		800		0	
102.00		1000		500		-500	

Translation: Buyers got stronger as price rose. Continuation likely.

Trade: Long continuation, targeting higher prices

Pattern 2: Selling Strength (Bearish)

What to Look For:

- [] Delta decreasing (more negative) as price falls
- [] Large sell volume at lows
- [] Minimal buying at support
- [] Sellers hitting bids aggressively

Candle Low:

100.00		1500		200		-1300	← Strong selling
100.25		1200		400		-800	
100.50		1000		600		-400	
100.75		800		800		0	
101.00		500		1000		+500	

Translation: Sellers got stronger as price fell. Continuation down likely.

Trade: Short continuation, targeting lower prices

Pattern 3: Absorption (Potential Reversal - Bullish)

What to Look For:

- [] Massive sell volume at a level
- [] Price holds (doesn't break down)
- [] Buyers absorbing all the selling
- [] Delta stays positive or neutral despite heavy selling

At Support:

98.00		5000		5200		+200	← ABSORPTION!
98.25		1000		1200		+200	
98.50		800		1000		+200	

98.75		400		600		+200
99.00		200		400		+200

Translation: Sellers threw everything at \$98, buyers absorbed it all.
Selling exhausted.

Trade: Long reversal from support

This is THE highest-probability footprint pattern (extremely reliable)

Pattern 4: Rejection (Potential Reversal - Bearish)

What to Look For:

- [] Massive buy volume at resistance
- [] Price rejected (doesn't break out)
- [] Sellers absorbing all the buying
- [] Delta stays negative despite heavy buying

At Resistance:

102.00		5200		5000		-200	← REJECTION!
101.75		1200		1000		-200	
101.50		1000		800		-200	
101.25		600		400		-200	
101.00		400		200		-200	

Translation: Buyers tried to break \$102, sellers absorbed everything.
Buying exhausted.

Trade: Short reversal from resistance

Pattern 5: Iceberg Orders (Hidden Institutional Activity)

What to Look For:

- [] Same price level "refilling" with volume
- [] Large volume absorbed without price movement
- [] Continuous buying/selling at one price

Example:

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Candle 1: 100.00 | 1000 | 3000 | +2000
Candle 2: 100.00 | 1500 | 3500 | +2000
Candle 3: 100.00 | 2000 | 4000 | +2000
```

Translation: Institution has hidden buy order at \$100. Keeps absorbing selling. Very bullish.

Trade: Long with institution

Step 3: Footprint + Janus Confluence

The Power Setup:

Combine footprint with Janus Atlas for extreme edge:

Bullish Example:

- [] Janus marks sweep below support
- [] Footprint shows absorption at the low
- [] Price reclaims above support
- [] Delta reverses positive

Confluence Score: ★★★★★ (Extremely high accuracy when all align)

Bearish Example:

- [] Janus marks sweep above resistance
- [] Footprint shows rejection at the high
- [] Price fails back below resistance
- [] Delta reverses negative

Confluence Score: ★★★★★ (Extremely high accuracy)



Footprint Pre-Trade Checklist

Setup Identification:

- [] Identified key level (support/resistance)
- [] Price approaching or testing level
- [] Footprint pattern forming (absorption/rejection/strength)

Footprint Analysis:

- [] Volume at level: High / Medium / Low
- [] Delta at level: +_ / -_
- [] Pattern type: Absorption / Rejection / Strength / Weakness
- [] POC location: Above / At / Below current price

Confluence Factors:

- [] Janus sweep signal present
- [] Plutus CVD indicating direction
- [] Dark pool activity supporting thesis
- [] Higher timeframe alignment

Entry Decision:

- [] Clear entry trigger defined
 - [] Stop placement identified (beyond absorption zone)
 - [] R:R minimum 2:1
 - [] Confidence: High / Medium / Low
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Common Footprint Mistakes

Mistake #1: Reading Single Price Level

Wrong:

- "I see positive delta at \$100, going long"

Correct:

- "Positive delta at \$100, but need to see if it continues as price rises"

Fix: Read the entire candle's footprint, not just one level

Mistake #2: Ignoring Volume Context

Wrong:

- "Delta is +500, that's bullish"

Correct:

- "Delta +500, but on 10K total volume vs. 100K average = weak signal"

Fix: Compare volume to average. Low volume delta = noise.

Mistake #3: Missing Absorption

Wrong:

- "Huge selling at support, going short"

Correct:

- "Huge selling at support, but price holding and buy delta absorbing = bullish"

Fix: Absorption (price holds despite heavy selling) = reversal signal

Mistake #4: Trading Mid-Range Footprints

✗ Wrong:

- Trading every footprint pattern seen

✓ Correct:

- Only trading footprint patterns at key levels (support/resistance)

Fix: Footprint most powerful at extremes, ignore mid-range



Footprint Pattern Recognition Practice

Exercise 1: Identify the Pattern

Scenario:

Price at resistance (\$105). Footprint shows:

105.00		3000		2800		-200
104.75		1500		1300		-200
104.50		1000		900		-100

What pattern is this?

- A) Buying strength
- B) Selling strength
- C) Absorption
- D) Rejection

Answer: D) Rejection - Heavy buying but sellers absorbing, delta negative

Trade: Short the rejection

Exercise 2: Absorption vs. Breakthrough

Scenario A (Absorption):

Support \$98:

98.00 | 4000 | 4200 | +200 ← Buyers absorbing

98.25 | 800 | 1000 | +200

Result: Potential reversal UP

Scenario B (Breakthrough):

Support \$98:

98.00 | 4000 | 3500 | -500 ← Sellers overwhelming

97.75 | 3000 | 2000 | -1000 ← Accelerating down

Result: Support breaks, continuation DOWN

Key Difference:

- Absorption: Price holds, delta positive or neutral
 - Breakthrough: Price breaks, delta heavily negative
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Pro Tips

1. Volume Profile + Footprint = Complete Picture

- Volume profile shows WHERE volume is
- Footprint shows WHO (buyers/sellers) won at those levels

2. Footprint Works Best at Extremes

- Support/resistance tests
- New highs/lows
- Sweep zones marked by Janus
- Mid-range footprint = less reliable

3. Watch for Absorption Clusters

- 3-5 candles of absorption at same level = very strong

- Institution likely has large order
- Price unlikely to break through

4. Delta Divergence

- Price making new high, but delta decreasing = exhaustion
- Price making new low, but delta less negative = exhaustion
- Divergence = reversal signal

5. Time of Day Matters

- First 30 min: High volume, aggressive trading
- 10:30-11:30 AM: Lower volume, patterns more reliable
- Last 30 min: Volume spike, can produce false signals



Footprint Trade Journal

Date: __ **Asset:** __

Level Tested: \$__ (Support / Resistance)

Footprint Pattern:

- Type: Absorption / Rejection / Strength / Weakness
- Volume at level: _ (High / Medium / Low)
- Delta at level: +_ / -__
- Pattern confidence: High / Medium / Low

Confluence:

- [] Janus sweep present
- [] Plutus CVD indicating
- [] Dark pool activity aligned
- [] HTF support

Trade:

- Direction: Long / Short
- Entry: \$__
- Stop: \$__
- Target: \$__

Result:

- Outcome: Win / Loss / Breakeven
- R-multiple: __
- Pattern accuracy: Validated / Failed

Lesson:

The Ultimate Footprint Setup

When All These Align (Highly Reliable Setup):

1. **Key level** (major support/resistance)
2. **Janus sweep** (liquidity grab)
3. **Footprint absorption** (5K+ volume absorbed)
4. **Plutus delta reversal** (CVD turning)
5. **Price reclaim** (back above/below level)
6. **HTF alignment** (trading with higher timeframe)

This is as close to "sure thing" as trading gets.

Master footprint reading. See what retail can't. Trade with precision.

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