# Response to feedback on the buzz roll in L2/24-213

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Based on feedback to proposal L2/24-213, *Unicode request for additional tremoli*, and the advice of the SEW, we suggest changing the name, glyph and properties of the character proposed for the musical buzz roll symbol, provisionally assigned to U+1D25F.

The buzz-roll symbol is a Z-shaped tremolo sign superimposed on the stem of a note, if it has one, or in the space above or below the notehead if it doesn't (Figure 3). This is analogous to the various the tremolos and to the *Sprechgesang*, all of which combine with a stem if one is available and appear above or below the notehead if not.

The treatment of these characters in Unicode is inconsistent. The combining tremolos appear in the character chart above a dotted ring and without a stem. On a whole note, they combine directly with the note; on a quarter note, a stem needs to be separately encoded. The *Sprechgesang* also appears in the character chart above a dotted ring, but it is precomposed with a combining stem. No extra stem is required for a quarter note, and on a whole note the rendering software needs to suppress the inherent stem. Such behaviour is beyond the scope of Unicode, and a separate stemless *Sprechgesang* character is not needed for whole notes.

Because of the need for Unicode stability, the behaviour of the tremolos and *Sprechgesang* cannot be harmonized. The SEW has decided that any additional tremolos, such as those of L2/24-213, should be modeled on the existing pattern, but that otherwise the *Sprechgesang* should be the model for stem-combining marks.

Note that the non-combining tremolos have a different function than the stem-combining ones: a combining tremolo appears on the stem of a specific note, and indicates that you repeat that one note. A spacing tremolo appears between two notes, and indicates that you alternate between those notes. To the best of our knowledge, there are no similar spacing variants of the *Sprechgesang*, buzz roll, bowing marks, or other marks that appear on the stems of notes, and thus no need for a second set of those characters.

# Characters

Changes from L2/24-213 are in red. The proposed name and glyph are changed to be consistent with 1D166 MUSICAL SYMBOL COMBINING SPRECHGESANG STEM. The SMuFL number is changed to that of their stemmed character.

♂  U+1D25F MUSICAL SYMBOL COMBINING BUZZ ROLL STEM [SMuFL U+E217]

# Properties

The proposed properties are also changed. They should be the same as 1D166 MUSICAL SYMBOL COMBINING SPRECHGESANG STEM.

1D25F;MUSICAL SYMBOL COMBINING BUZZ ROLL STEM;Mc;216;L;;;;;N;;;;;

# Figures



**Figure 1.** Adam Holmes, "Notating rolls" (adamholmesmusic.com/blog-notating-rolls/). An introduction to the buzz roll symbol.

**Figure 2.** Percussive Arts Society International Drum Rudiments. The buzz roll (top) behaves like a combining tremolo (bottom). However, the need for Unicode stability requires us to leave the combining tremoli characters without a stem. Going forward, marks that appear on stems should be precomposed with the combining stem.



**Figure 3.** MuseScore treats the buzz roll like the combining tremoli U+1D167..1D169. On a stemless note like a whole note, the stem is suppressed (red) as it is with a tremolo (blue). This is also the behaviour of the *Sprechgesang*, whose Unicode character is precomposed with the stem. That is, the buzz roll could be either a bare combining mark like the tremoli, or precomposed with a stem like the *Sprechgesang.* There is no theoretical difference, though the encoding is slightly more compact if Unicode includes a stem in the character. The opinion of the SEW is that, going forward, such combining marks should include a stem.