Sonata Form Analysis Symbols

Primary Divisions
P   Primary Theme
T   Transitional Theme
S   Secondary Theme
K   Closing Theme

Less Definite or Optional Divisions
O   Introductory material
N   New material occuring after the exposition
Q   Questionable functions, too ambiguous to justify a more precise symbol

Qualifying Identifiers
a, b, c, etc.   Phrases or smaller-dimension functions (i.e., 1P*b* is the second phrase of 1P)
x, y, z, etc.   Following *a,b,c*, etc., indicate motivic levels (i.e., 1P*by* indicates second phrase of 1P, using motive *y*.)
1P, 2S, etc.   An arabic numeral *before* a primary division define constituent themes (i.e., 1P, 2P, etc.)
P^1, T^2 A raised superscript indicates variants (i.e., 1P might be followed by $1P^1$
P^k Superscript 'k' means that a closing function is present at the end of the main function (i.e., $2S^k$)
S(P)   A division in parentheses indicates derivation (i.e., S (1P) indicates that S is derived from 1P.)
>   Further derivation, used within parentheses (i.e., K (2S > 1P) indicates that K is derived from 2S, which was in turn derived from 1P).
r   Isolates the rhythmic element of a theme (i.e., 1S*a*(1P*r*) indicates that the first phrase of 1S is derived from the rhythm of 1P.)
h   Isolates the harmonic element of a theme (i.e., 1S*a*(1P*h*) indicates that the first phrase of 1S is derived from the harmony of 1P.)
/   A slash preceding any symbol indicates a location in the lower part of the texture: 1S/P*r* refers to a secondary theme with lower parts based on the rhythm of a primary theme.

Phrases and Phrase Lengths
2 + 2   Indicates two phrases of 2 measures each
4 x 2   Indicates two repetitions of a four-measure unit: read as *4 measures times 2*.

Examples

1P*ax*   First Phrase of First Primary Theme, employing motive 'x'
2T(2P*b*)   Second Transitional Theme, derived from the second phrase of Second Primary theme.
$2S^k$(1P*r*)   Second Secondary Theme, with a closing function, derived from the rhythm of the First Primary Theme.
$2P^1$ First variant of Second Primary Theme