THE BART PATTERN STUDY

Every Bart on Bitcoin since 2017, counted by a fixed rule on 79,000 hourly candles. Then the big version, the 3-day run and 3-week shelf, on 8-hour bars.

What the pattern actually is, when it fires, whether you can trade it, and the August 2026 case with a finish line and a date.

29 hourly Barts since 2017	**21%** of spike-and-shelf setups finish	**$66,700** August's finish line, by 24 Oct

Educational, not financial advice. Both rules were written before the data was looked at, and the sensitivity of every count to the rule is shown on the last page. Small samples are stated as such.

Bitcoin Jae
@bitcoin.daily

THE DEFINITION

TWO RULES, FIXED BEFORE LOOKING

A Bart is a spike, a flat shelf, and a drop straight back to where the spike began, the shape of Bart Simpson's head. Everyone recognises one after the fact. The problem is that eyeballing a pattern lets you count the ones you remember and forget the ones that failed. So this study replaces the eye with a rule and runs it over every candle.

The hourly rule. A move of 3% or more inside 2 hours. Then a shelf, every hour's high and low inside 1.5% of the post-spike price, holding for 6 to 48 hours. Then, within 6 hours of the shelf breaking, a move back the other way of at least two thirds of the spike. Up-spikes and down-spikes count equally. A spike plus a qualifying shelf is a **setup**. A setup that produces the return leg is a **Bart**.

The big rule. Run on 8-hour bars. A run of 15% or more inside 3 days. Then closes holding inside 4% of the peak for 2 days or longer. Then, within 60 days of leaving the shelf, a fall of two thirds of the run. This is the version that can see the August 2026 chart on the cover, which the hourly rule cannot.

Data is Binance BTCUSDT from 17 August 2017 to 6 September 2026, 79,218 hourly candles, the same candles resampled to 8 hours for the big rule. No rule reads a bar it could not have seen at the time.

THE DISCIPLINE

The rule has to be stated before the count, or the count is worthless. Both of these were.

THE HOURLY COUNT

ALL 29 HOURLY BARTS, DATED (1 OF 2)

141 times since 2017, Bitcoin spiked and went flat. 29 of those finished the pattern, about three a year, and 22 of the 29 came all the way back to within 1.5% of where the spike began. The rest reversed by at least two thirds of the spike without fully round-tripping.

SPIKE (UTC)	SIZE	DIRECTION	SHELF	BACK TO START
23 Aug 2017	+3.1%	up	8h	yes
14 May 2018	-3.3%	down	9h	yes
27 Dec 2018	-3.8%	down	19h	partial
29 Dec 2018	-4.3%	down	8h	yes
14 Jan 2019	+3.8%	up	28h	yes
23 Jul 2019	-3.4%	down	13h	yes
26 Jul 2019	+3.7%	up	9h	partial
15 Aug 2019	+3.3%	up	7h	yes
29 Nov 2019	+3.0%	up	21h	yes
4 Dec 2019	+4.1%	up	6h	yes
29 Mar 2020	-3.3%	down	6h	partial
5 Jul 2021	-3.2%	down	6h	yes
20 Jul 2021	-3.3%	down	24h	partial
8 Dec 2021	+3.0%	up	11h	yes
14 Dec 2021	+3.0%	up	14h	yes

Spike time is the hour the move began. Shelf is how long the flat held before breaking. Back to start = within 1.5% of the pre-spike price.

THE HOURLY COUNT

ALL 29 HOURLY BARTS, DATED (2 OF 2)

SPIKE (UTC)	SIZE	DIRECTION	SHELF	BACK TO START
27 Jan 2022	-3.0%	down	6h	yes
12 Jun 2022	-3.8%	down	11h	yes
18 Jul 2022	+4.2%	up	8h	yes
27 Sep 2022	+3.8%	up	9h	partial
8 Nov 2022	-3.9%	down	9h	yes
26 Apr 2023	+3.3%	up	6h	partial
14 Jun 2023	-3.8%	down	21h	yes
12 Feb 2024	+4.1%	up	22h	yes
14 Apr 2024	+3.1%	up	9h	yes
3 Mar 2025	-3.3%	down	12h	partial
22 Jun 2025	-3.0%	down	9h	yes
22 Aug 2025	+3.1%	up	48h	yes
3 Feb 2026	+4.6%	up	16h	yes
3 Sep 2026	+3.2%	up	20h	yes

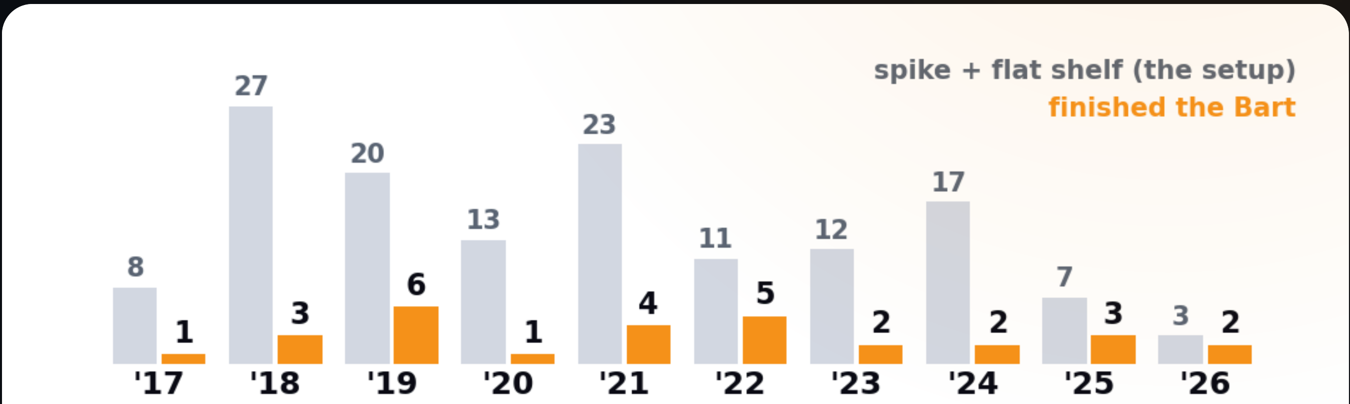
16 up-spikes, 13 down-spikes. Median shelf 9 hours. Median spike 3.3%. The biggest, 3 February 2026 at +4.6%.

Two of the 29 sit inside the last seven months, and the most recent, 3 September 2026, was detected by the same rule as the other 28, not added by hand. Nothing about this pattern has stopped.

MYTH ONE

THEY DID NOT DIE WHEN THE MARKET GREW UP

The popular story is that Barts belonged to the thin, wild markets of 2018 and 2019 and disappeared once size arrived. The count says otherwise. Barts finished 18% of setups in 2017 to 2019, 21% in 2020 to 2022 and 23% since 2023. There were three in 2025 and two so far in 2026.



Bitcoin hourly, Aug 2017 to Sep 2026. 141 setups, 29 Barts. Share that finish, by era: 18%, 21%, 23%.

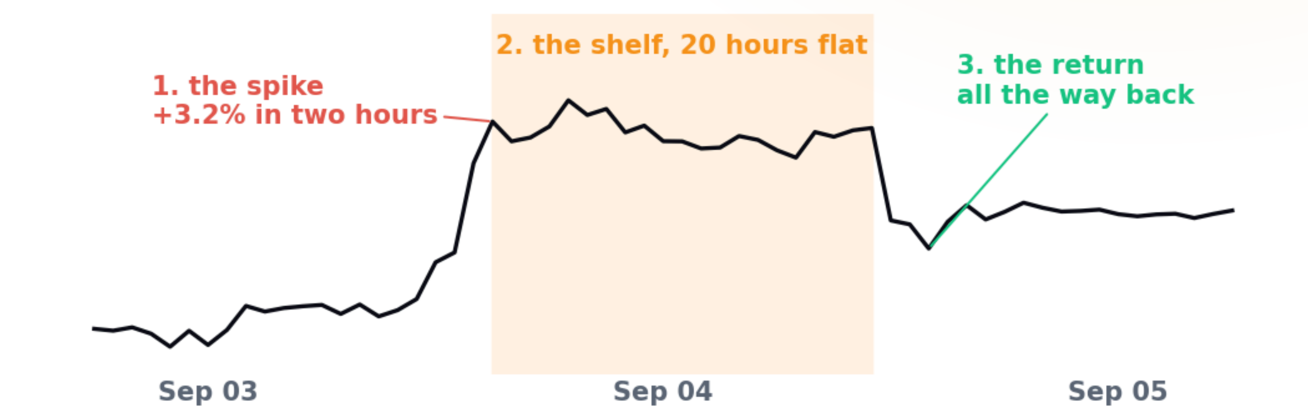
What fell is the number of spikes. Bitcoin's hourly range has roughly halved since 2018, so there are fewer 3% hours to set the pattern up. Given a setup, the share that finishes has not fallen. Bitcoin got calmer, not cleaner.

MYTH TWO

NOT AT 3AM ON A SUNDAY

If Barts were a whale exploiting an empty book, they would cluster in the emptiest hours. They do the opposite. Only 17% of the 29 spiked on a weekend, against 29% if they were spread evenly. Only 28% spiked in the overnight window from midnight to 8am UTC, against 38% if random. Seventeen of the 29 fired Monday to Wednesday, most of them inside the US session.

The volume says the same thing. The spike hour runs at 3.2 times its 30-day average. The shelf that follows runs at 0.97 times, which is to say normal. Nothing is frozen during the flat. The market simply ran out of resting orders on one side after the spike cleared them, and it sat until they refilled.



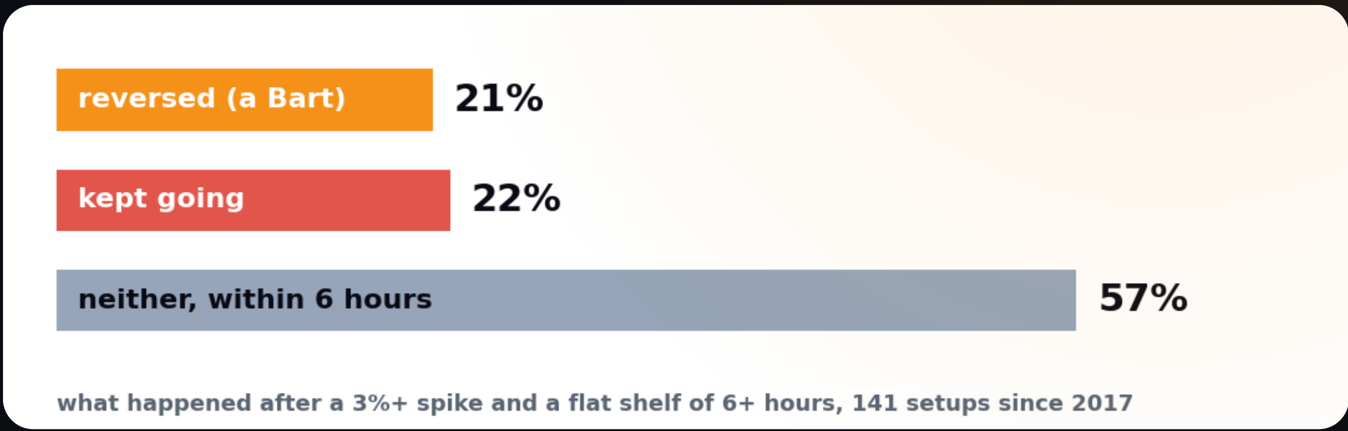
Bitcoin, hourly, September 2 to 5, 2026. One of 29 mechanical Barts since 2017.

The 3 September 2026 case above is the most recent. Up 3.2% in two hours at 9am New York, flat for 20 hours, then all the way back the next morning.

THE TRADER'S QUESTION

CAN YOU FADE THE SHELF?

Given a spike and a qualifying shelf, three things can happen within six hours of the shelf breaking. The 141 setups split like this.



Reversal 21%, continuation 22%, neither 57%. A trader who shorts every up-shelf expecting the drop is betting on a coin flip against an equal-sized move the other way, and most of the time nothing decisive happens at all. After a Bart has completed, the next day was up 62% of the time against 52% for any day, and the next week ran a median +1.5% against +0.5%. On 29 cases that is noise.

THE VERDICT

A Bart tells you where the stops were. It does not tell you where price goes next. Fading the shelf is a guess with a name.

THE BIG VERSION

THE 3-DAY RUN AND THE 3-WEEK SHELF

The chart on the cover is not an hourly Bart. It is a run of 19% in three days and a shelf that held for weeks. Scaling the hourly rule up to 8-hour bars finds almost nothing, because a spike that means anything on an 8-hour bar is a 10% move in 16 hours. So the big rule allows the run to build over three days and asks what happened in the two months after the shelf broke.

SHELF BROKE	RUN	FIRST MOVE AFTER	DAYS TO FINISH LINE
23 Oct 2017	+15%	fell first	2
19 Dec 2017	+18%	fell first	0
5 Jan 2018	+18%	kept going first	9
15 Apr 2018	+17%	kept going first	56
23 Jul 2018	+17%	kept going first	16
25 Jun 2019	+16%	kept going first	21
30 Oct 2019	+19%	fell first	19
27 Mar 2020	+16%	fell first	2
1 Aug 2020	+16%	kept going first	never
8 Dec 2020	+17%	kept going first	never
12 Jun 2021	+18%	fell first	9
13 Aug 2021	+15%	kept going first	never
5 Oct 2021	+17%	kept going first	never
2 Aug 2022	+16%	fell first	17
20 Jan 2023	+20%	kept going first	never
6 Jul 2023	+15%	fell first	41
9 Nov 2023	+17%	kept going first	never
4 Mar 2024	+18%	kept going first	never
25 Aug 2026	+19%	kept going first	open, deadline 24 Oct

Finish line = the peak close less two thirds of the run. 'Never' = not within 90 days.

Eighteen cases with history. When the shelf broke, 11 kept going first and only 7 fell straight back. But given 60 days, 11 of the 18 printed the finish line anyway, a median 16 days after the shelf broke. The big Bart usually comes after a higher high, and it takes weeks.

THE LIVE CASE

AUGUST 2026, DATED

By the big rule, August qualifies. The run started from a close of **$64,199** on 18 August and peaked at **$76,309** on 21 August, up 18.9% in three days. The shelf held for 88 hours and broke upward on 25 August. The higher high came on 3 September at $82,300, which is what 13 of the 18 historical cases did before deciding.

The finish line is the peak less two thirds of the run, **$66,700**, and the clock runs 60 days from the shelf breaking, to **24 October 2026**. That date was chosen because it is where the historical answer stops moving, not because it flatters either side.

WINDOW AFTER THE SHELF BROKE	CASES THAT HIT THE FINISH LINE
30 days	9 of 18
60 days	11 of 18
90 days	11 of 18

Same 18 cases, three windows. Going from 30 to 60 days adds two cases. Going from 60 to 90 adds none.

The three historical cases that fired inside bear markets, April 2018, July 2018 and August 2022, all printed the finish line within 60 days, two of them after a higher high first. Three cases is three cases. It is written here so it can be checked, not so it can be leaned on.

THE TEST

If price prints $66,700 by 24 October, the August Bart finished by the rule. If it does not, it did not. This is a study, not a call. The data settles it.

THE HONEST LIMITS

WHAT MOVES THE COUNT, AND WHAT THIS STUDY DOES NOT SAY

Every count in this guide depends on how tight you demand the shelf. That is not a flaw to hide, it is the most important thing to know before quoting any of it.

CHANGE TO THE HOURLY RULE	SETUPS	BARTS	SHARE THAT FINISH
shelf inside 1.0%	28	1	4%
shelf inside 1.5% (the rule)	141	29	21%
shelf inside 2.0%	245	76	31%
spike 2.5% instead of 3%	238	71	30%
spike 4% instead of 3%	43	7	16%

Return window 6 hours, shelf at least 6 hours, in every row.

It does not say Barts are manipulation, and it does not say they are not. Price data cannot see who traded. It can see when, and how, and both point at busy hours and a stop cascade, not an empty book and a single hand. That is the mechanical reading. It is not a proof.

It does not predict the next candle. 29 hourly cases and 18 big ones are small samples. Medians describe the middle of a small distribution with wide tails. The August finish line is a base rate applied to one case, and base rates lose sometimes. The point of dating it is that it can be graded, not that it is certain.

Data pinned 9 September 2026. Binance BTCUSDT hourly from 17 August 2017, resampled to 8 hours for the big rule. The 25 November 2011 Bitstamp print is not in this data set. Scripts: bart_study.py, bart_study_tf.py, bart_big.py. This is education, not financial advice.

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