

CALLERLAB Online Teaching Resource

Compiled by Dottie Welch for CALLERLAB 2019 Interest Session, Richmond, Virginia
Online Resources

Link: <http://teaching.callerlab.org/>
(It usually works to just type **teaching.callerlab.org**)

This resource is a WordPress subsection of the CALLERLAB website where the Choreographic Applications Committee is developing a resource of choreographic information to assist a modern square dance caller who is teaching new calls to dancers, or teaching new applications of a call to dancers.

The Home Page has a brief description of the resource and links to Basic Part 1, Basic Part 2, and Mainstream. This resource is still in development. Entries for all calls in the Basic Part 1 and Basic Part 2 section are ready for use and Mainstream is nearing completion.

The Program Pages each contain a table with the list of the calls in the recommended CALLERLAB teaching order and the links for each call to its seven pages of information.

Each Information Page has links at the top to each of the other six pages for the same call and back to its Program page. Links to the other Program pages and to the Home page can be found in the blue bar across the top.

Information Pages Descriptions

“Define” links to the Definition of the call with Command examples, Timing, Styling, and Comments (quoted from the Definitions Document). This page also has some background information about the call and a link to Terminations.

“Standard” links to descriptions of the formation and arrangements considered to be Standard Applications of the call.

“Analyze” links to Call Analysis comments about hand usage, body flow, good preceding and following calls, and ending formations for standard applications and a few extended applications. Also any ARC Rulings on the call are listed here.

“Module” links to Equivalents, Zeros, Get-Ins, and Get-Outs that use the call.

“Teach” links to Teaching Tips and sample choreography for patter and singing calls. This choreography is designed to fit into the CALLERLAB suggested teaching order and focuses on the Standard Applications.

“Other” links to Traditional Squares, Mixers, Sicilian Circles, or Contra dances that use the call.

“Extend” links to choreography for workshops on Extended Applications. This choreography begins with applications that could be taught as part of the teaching order. In some cases it also includes applications that assume the dancers have learned the Standard Applications of the calls in the Mainstream program.

Teaching Page Details

Teaching Tips are quoted from the CALLERLAB Teaching Tips documents.

More teaching suggestions are additional helpful hints from other sources.

Quick quote is a concise quote that can be chanted to assist dancers through the call when they are first learning it.

Teaching Standard Applications lists suggested choreography for patter and singing calls. It begins with the easier applications. Those are followed by other standard applications which can be danced using the calls learned to this point.

For partner changing figures there are two options at the end. The “**Patter**” option ends without changing partners. The “**Singer**” option is for use during a singing call. Unless indicated otherwise, the Singing Call figure is a corner progression.

Example figure for teaching Girls Circulate:

Heads Lead Right and Veer Left,
Girls Circulate,
(Ladies) Chain Down the Line,
Go Up and Back, Each four Circle Left 1/4,
Pass Thru, Allemande Left new corner,
Patter: Pass One, Promenade Partner
Singer: Come Back to Swing and Promenade

Example figure for teaching Swing Thru:

Heads Pass Thru and Separate around 1 to a Line,
Forward and Back, Star Thru,
Centers Pass Thru, Dosado to a Wave,
Ladies Trade, Swing Thru,
Patter: Box the Gnat, Change Hands, Allemande Left, Home
Singer: Swing Corner and Promenade

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Feedback and / or Input is Welcome:

Both the Online Teaching Resource and the Dance Resource are under development and we welcome comments, suggestions and additional material. We also encourage you to send us a message if you find an error in text, a link, or choreography.

Contact: Dottie Welch, dwelch@eastlink.ca

CALLERLAB Dance Resource

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Link: <http://dances.callerlab.org/>

This resource is a WordPress subsection of the CALLERLAB website where the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance is developing a resource of dances for use at Beginner Party Dances and Community Dances. There currently are more than 170 individual dance descriptions plus many more descriptions in the past issues of the *Community Dance Journal*.

Dance Types

There are four general types of dances in this resource. They are described on the home page as follows:

Circle Dances all begin in one large circle. They include No Partner Dances, Sitting Dances, Couple Dances, and Mixers.

Contras generally begin in two long facing lines with partner pairs arranged in various ways. This collection includes Proper Lines, Proper Duple Lines, Improper Duple Lines, Triples, Triplets, and Becket Lines. There are also contras that begin in other formations such as the Sicilian Circle and Mescolanza formations.

Lines, Trios and Groups includes dances that begin in loose lines of solo dancers and dances that begin with groups of three or more dancers arranged in various ways.

Square Dances all begin in groups of eight dancers arranged in a square. This collection includes Traditional Square Dance figures of various types, Quadrilles, Singing Call figures, and Miscellaneous Ideas related to Square Dancing.

Searching for a Dance

There are three different ways to search for all dances that satisfy some specific criteria.

Dance Categories contains a list where one might ask to see all dances of a certain type, such as all Solo dances or all Sicilian Circle Contras. Clicking on one of these options will result in a list of dances including a brief description of each and ordered by the date of posting. Clicking on the dance name will take you to the full dance description. The descriptions include an option to download a Rich Text Format file of the full dance description. It is also possible to copy and paste from the HTML description.

Tag Cloud contains a cloud of words where the size of the word indicates the frequency of the tag. One might ask to see all dances tagged with "genderless" or "Ladies Chain". This results in the same kind of list as described for Dance Categories.

Dance Resource Table of Dances is a link to a "sortable" table of all the dances with columns for Dance Name, Choreographer, Dance Type, and Difficulty. Clicking on one of the column headers will sort that column alphabetically or numerically. A second click will reverse the sort order. Clicking on the name of a specific dance will take you to the full dance description.

CD Journal Links

One of the sources for the dances in this resource is the *Community Dance Journal* produced by the Committee for Community and Traditional Dance. There is a link to a “sortable” table, which lists all the dances by dance type as well as the major articles in all issues of the *CD Journal* (or previously *CDP Journal*). Clicking on the issue date will link to a pdf download of the *Community Dance Journal* issue from the CALLERLAB website.

Supporting Documents

We are also working on a collection of supporting documents designed to help a caller learn how to present these dances, and how to present Beginner Dance Parties and Community Dances.

Dance Format

Most of these dances are intended to be pre-cued. There are prompts showing the timing for calling followed by a separate description of the action during each eight beats of music.

Wild Turkey

Formation: Lines of three dancers facing counter-clockwise around the hall like spokes

Music: Originally “Sherbrooke” on Grenn 15008. Music with a marching rhythm works well.

Prompts:

Intro or

25-32 ----; -- **Walk forward;**

1-8 ----; **Right hand person Right Hand Around;**

9-16 ----; **Left hand person Left Hand Around;**

17-24 ----; **Centers forward;**

25-32 ----; -- **All Walk forward;**

Description:

1-8 The lines of three walk forward 8 steps counter-clockwise around the hall.

9-16 The center person of each line turns the person on their right with a right Arm Turn or hooked right elbow turn.

17-24 The same person turns the person on their left with a left Arm Turn or hooked elbow.

25-32 The center person moves ahead to join the next group.

Choreography by: Bob Howell, Ohio

Source: Printed in *CD Journal*, March 2011

Usage: This is an excellent Beginner Party dance when it is desirable to mix everyone in a random way.

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