

# Dance Party Building

*Robert (Bob) L. Riggs*

*Callerlab Convention, March 30-April 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, Springfield, MO*

**Session title:** Dance Party Building – Bob Riggs, Moderator with Dottie Welch and Mike Olivieri, Panelists

**Session description:** Using MWSD at dance parties and intro nights. How to overcome the disadvantages of squares at party nights: need groups of 8, gender imbalance, need for progression (people wandering in and out), forming squares, etc.

For almost 40 years I have provided dance party entertainment for groups that dance infrequently and encouraged new dancers to join our activity through enjoyable introduction to square dancing events. Many view these events as very similar, I don't. A one night party is a single period of time where the hosts and the participants attend to enjoy the music, dance and fellowship. Enjoyment is the only objective. An introduction to square dancing event like a free night, chili supper, or first night of class, is an event where the hosts want to convince the dancers to join the activity by dancing more frequently and the attendees are attempting to identify if this is something they want to do.

For dance parties the attendees are there to be entertained, to enjoy each other and the music. They don't come to be permanently engaged in an activity that requires a lot of commitment or knowledge. With enjoyment/entertainment in mind the entertainer must prepare a wide variety of material that is easy for the participant to execute to great music. Using modern square dance terms and a variety of formations we can provide entertainment that overcomes gender imbalance and numbers that are not a multiple of 8.

An entertaining evening can be built up from a single large circle of people without partners, through the formation of couples in a large circle, the scattering of couples throughout the dance hall, the merging of couples into small circles of 2 or 3 couples, the merging of these small circles into larger circles of 4, 5 or 6 couples. And finally using Sicilian circles of couples or trios along with improper contra lines we can accommodate all who desire to dance.

Let's layout the sequence that square dance terminology and formations are introduced.

**Large Single Circle No Partners:** Circle Left/Right, Forward/Back, dance timing through walking and clap sequences, turning right/left.

- Sample sequence {Fraleys Frolic}: Circle Left (8), Forward/Back (8), Circle Right (8), Forward/Back (8), claps (clap 3 times in front, clap 3 times behind back, clap 5 times in front, solo turn right (8), claps (clap 3 times in front, clap 3 times behind back, clap 5 times in front), solo turn left (8) ... repeat with Circle Left ...

**Large Single Circle with Partners:** Partner/Corner, Circle Left/Right, Forward/Back, Arm Turns Left/Right, DoSaDo, Single File Promenade, Couples Promenade, Scatter Promenade

- Sample sequence: Circle Left (8), Forward/Back (8), Circle Right (8), Forward/Back (8), Corner left Arm Turn (8), Partner Right Arm Turn (8), Corner Left Arm Turn (8), DoSaDo Partner (8) ... repeat with Circle Left ...

**Small Circles 2 or 3 couples:** Partner/Corner, Circle Left/Right, Arm Turns Left/Right, DoSaDo, Left DoSaDo, Star Right/Left

- Sample sequence: Star Right (8), Star Left (8), Circle Left (8), Circle Right (8), Corner left Arm Turn (8), Partner Right Arm Turn (8), Corner Left Arm Turn(8), DoSaDo Partner (8), ... repeat

**Medium Circles 4, 5 or 6 couples:** Square numbering, Partner/Corner/Opposite, Circle Left/Right (all, odd couples, even couples), Arm Turns Left/Right (partner, corner, opposite), DoSaDo (partner, corner, opposite), Left DoSaDo, Star Left/Right (all, old couples, even couples), Separate, Split.

- Sample break sequence: Circle Left (8), Turn Corner Left (8), Turn Partner Right (8), Turn Corner Left (8), DoSaDo Partner (8), Circle Right to home.
- Sample sequence for odd/even numbered couples: All/Odd/Even couples Circle Right (8), Circle Left (8), Star Left (8), Start Right (8), Corner left Arm Turn/Left Allemande (8), Partner Right Arm Turn/Right Allemande (8), Corner Left Arm Turn/Left Allemande (8), DoSaDo Partner (8) ... repeat
- Sample sequence for couple(s) {Soloman Levi figure}: 1<sup>st</sup> couple separate full around the set pass partner to corner (16), Turn Corner Left (8), Partner DoSaDo (8), ... repeat for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> couple ... repeat for odd numbered couples ... repeat for even numbered couples ... repeat for all couples.
- Sample sequence for couple(s): 1<sup>st</sup> couple divide the ring (between 3<sup>rd</sup> couple) (8), Separate back home (8), turn partner right (8), turn corner Left/Left Allemande (8) ... repeat for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> couple.

**Sicilian Circles of couples or trios:** Couple numbering, Partner/Opposite, Circle Left/Right, Arm Turns Left/Right (partner, opposite), DoSaDo (partner, opposite), Star Left/Right, Dive Thru/Dip & Dive, Veer Left/Right

- Sample Sequence couples {Dip & Dive for Jillian, by Bob Riggs}: Star Right (8), Star Left (8), DoSaDo Opposite (8), DoSaDo Partner (8), Circle Left (8), Circle Right (8), 1<sup>s</sup> arch / 2<sup>s</sup> dive thru, 2<sup>s</sup> arch / 1<sup>s</sup> dive thru, 1<sup>s</sup> arch / 2<sup>s</sup> dive thru, 2<sup>s</sup> arch / 1<sup>s</sup> dive thru ... repeat with Star Right ...
- Sample Sequence for trios {Do-Ci-Dizzy, by Bob Howell}: Circle Left (8), Circle Right (8), Opposite DoSaDo (8), Right Ends DoSaDo (8), Left Ends DoSaDo (8), linew of 3 DoSaDo once & a half (24)