

DIXIE GRAND

by Ed Foote

CALLERLAB DEFINITION: Dixie Grand: Starting formation - Dixie Grand Circle, Double Pass Thru, Quarter Tag, or any formation where at least two dancers can start. TIMING - 6.

Those who can start the call by joining right hands with the facing dancer and pulling by. Each dancer moves ahead around the circle and gives a left hand to the next, pulling by, and a right hand to the next, pulling by. Regardless of the starting formation, as the movement progresses, the formation converts to a circle.

STYLING: Styling is similar to the description for Right and Left Grand. Dancers use handshake hold for alternating pull by movements, releasing hands as dancers pass each other. Skirt work is not recommended.

HISTORICAL USE: For years Dixie Grand was only used from one formation — a Circle. The set-up was everyone doing a Single File Promenade, then dancers designated by the caller would U Turn Back, then the caller would say: “Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

Examples: (1) 4 Ladies Chain & Heads (only) 1/2 Sashay, All Circle Left, Reverse Back Single File, Boys Turn Back, those who can start a Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.

(2) 4 Ladies Chain & Heads (only) 1/2 Sashay, All Circle Right, Reverse Back Single File, Girls Turn Back, those who can start a Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.

Note: Both of the above make good Openers for a tip.

Eventually it was discovered that Dixie Grand could be used from many formations, such as Starting and Completed Double Pass Thru, 8 Chain Thru, Trade By, and Ocean Waves.

Allemande Left and Dixie Grand. 99% of all Dixie Grands end in an Allemande Left. Reason: It is very convenient to do so. No matter what the starting formation, the definition says that with Dixie Grand ...”the formation coverts to a Circle.”

This ending formation of a Circle with all the dancers facing after a Dixie Grand does not lend itself to convenient choreography. So almost all callers just go with the idea of following a Dixie Grand with an Allemande Left.

Note: It is not mandatory to always follow Dixie Grand with an Allemande Left. A few callers have experimented with calling something else after a Dixie Grand, and this is fine. But most callers have found it easiest to just go with Allemande Left.

WHY DO DANCERS LOVE DIXIE GRAND? Because it provides on-going forward motion. It feels good to the dancers, for the same reason that Right & Left Grand feels good. This is real dancing!

For years Dixie Grand was not called often, because callers were afraid of it. They did not know the formulas for using it from multiple formations, because these had never been written down. So callers would use a prepared sequence once a night from a Circle and that was it.

Today we have formulas that make calling Dixie Grand unbelievably easy. These are shown in this article. A good sight caller can insert Dixie Grand as a get-out at any time, and can even manipulate the square to force a Dixie Grand resolve. Required time to do this: 10 — 15 seconds.

FUN WITH THE DANCERS ON DIXIE GRAND. Most callers will say “Dixie Grand” and then give the directions by saying “Right—Left—Right” as the dancers are doing the call. The caller gives these directions to help the dancers who need it, but also to provide background words with the music.

In various parts of the country, dancers have started saying “Right—Left—Right” along with the caller. But, they don’t just say it, they SHOUT IT — LOUD! Callers who teach dancers to do this find that it creates an upbeat exciting moment that the dancers love. The beauty is that this moment is re-created every time every time the caller uses Dixie Grand.

How often should Dixie Grand be used? I recommend at least 10 times a night, maybe more. This is a fun call that is easy for the dancers, they love it, and it is also exciting when they shout out the commands as described above. It doesn’t get much better than this.

FORMULA FOR SIGHT CALLERS. These formulas cover most situations. All set-ups are normal boy—girl couples. Memorize these and you’re all set.

1. From a Starting Double Pass Thru (DPT): Primary Couple in the center, secondary girl behind NOT with partner. Call “Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

1A. From a Starting Double Pass Thru (DPT): Secondary couple in the center, primary man behind NOT with partner. Call “Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

Note: For both of the above situations, the centers might have to do a Right & Left Thru to get in front of the correct person on the outside. Be alert for this.

Also, if you need to call “Centers Right & Left Thru” in order to set this up, a better way to call it is: “Centers Square Thru — on the 3rd hand start a Dixie Grand.” This dances better.

2. From a Starting Double Pass Thru (DPT): Anytime the centers can Pass Thru to an Allemande Left, instead call: “Double Pass Thru, Dixie Grand, Allemande Left.”

Note: The first few times you call this, after calling “Double Pass Thru,” you need to say: “Leaders face your partner — Dixie Grand.” After doing this a couple times, then everyone has the idea and you no longer have to do this.

3. From a Corner Box: Call “Pass Thru, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.” You can also call “Pass to the Center, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

4. From a Corner Box: Call: “Slide Thru, Square thru 4, Dixie Grand - Allemande Left.”

5. From Facing Partner Lines (IN sequence): Call “Square Thru 4, Trade By, Dixie Grand, Allemande Left.”

6. From Facing Partner Lines (OUT of sequence): Call “Pass the Ocean, All 8 Circulate, Dixie Grand, Allemande Left.”

INFORMATION FOR SIGHT CALLERS. The basic idea behind #1, #1A, and #2 is that two couples have their partner and two do not. Any time during a sequence that you want to use a Dixie Grand from a Starting DPT, just manipulate the square to where two couples have their partner and two do not. This is easily done by using **Accey Deucey**, because Accey Deucey leaves two couples with the adjacent person they started with and the other two couples with their opposite.

If you are using Isolated Sight: Put the set into a Starting DPT, with the matched pair in the center and the mis-matched pair behind them. (Naturally, you keep the original starting 4 you were watching on the same side of the set — this is what Isolated Sight means.). Call “Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

If you are using Two-Faced Line Sight: The very last step, when you are ready to go for the Allemande Left, says that you will have the Primary Couple on the outside and the Secondary Girl in the center. Then you look at the Secondary Girl. If she has her partner beside her, you can NOT call Dixie Grand. But if she does not have her partner beside her, then it is a Corner Box. So you can use #3 above - ie. “Pass Thru, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

Using the formulas above, it is very easy to insert Dixie Grand into your choreography at any time. Remember, you are never more than 15 seconds away from a Dixie Grand get-out at any point in your calling.

FORMULA FOR MODULE CALLERS. Use #3, #4 & #5 from above. You will often be in these situations, and thus can insert a Dixie Grand instead of what you have prepared. In other words, call your normal module, but bail out at the end with a Dixie Grand.

NEAT DIXIE GRAND GETOUTS. Don’t bother to memorize these — there is only so much you can memorize. But because these are nice, it is suggested that you print these on cards and have them lying on the table beside you. Then you can glance down and use one from time to time.

1. From a Corner Box: Call “Right & Left Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Veer Right, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left

2. From a Corner Box: Call “Pass Thru — Trade By & OUTSIDES ROLL, Outsides Box the Gnat & start a Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

3. From a Corner Box Ocean Wave (from Corner Box, all step to right-hand wave): Call “Boys Circulate — Dixie Grand, Allemande Left.”

How to use this get-out effectively. Do not say “Step to a Wave, Boys Circulate, etc.” Stepping to a wave is fine for walkthrus, but not for dancing. Instead you want material that dances you into a Corner Box Wave at the end.

The ideal call here is Relay the Deucey. From a Corner Box call “Relay the Deucey.” Watch the dancers. When they are 2 steps from being done, call very loud: “BOYS CIRCULATE - DIXIE GRAND, ALLEMANDE LEFT.” This dances like a charm.

But you MUST have perfect timing for the “Boys Circulate.” Too early or too late and the effect is lost. The reason you must raise your voice is that the dancers are concentrating on the Relay the Deucey, and thus will not hear or react to you unless you increase your voice volume.

Another nice combination is to have the Boys Circulate on a Spin Chain Thru. Set-up is: From Facing Partner Lines (IN sequence): Call “Right & Left Thru, Pass the Ocean, All 8 Circulate, Boys Trade, Spin Chain Thru — Boys Circulate ONCE, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

4. From Facing Opposite Lines (IN sequence) (means everyone has their opposite as a partner): Call “Slide Thru, Square Thru — on the 3rd hand start a Dixie Grand.

5. From Facing Opposite Lines (OUT of sequence): Call “Slide Thru, Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

6. From Facing Opposite Lines (OUT of sequence): Call “Pass the Ocean, Girls Run, Tag the Line - Face In, Slide Thru (same sex), those who can start a Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

7. Any time the Centers can "Pass Thru — Allemande Left," instead call: “Double Pass Thru, Centers In — Cast Off 3/4, Centers LEFT Square Thru 4 — others shake hands & start a Dixie Grand — Allemande Left.”

DIXIE GRAND MATERIAL

- #1
4 LADIES CHAIN 3/4
HEADS SQUARE THRU 4 HANDS
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #2
HEADS SLIDE THRU
CENTERS RIGHT & LEFT THRU
ALL DOUBLE PASS THRU
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #3
HEADS SQUARE THRU **2 HANDS**
PASS THRU
CENTERS SQUARE THRU 3/4
*DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
*OR
TRACK 2
GIRLS CIRCULATE
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #4
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE.
STAR THRU
PASS THRU - TRADE BY - STAR THRU
PASS THE OCEAN
GIRLS RUN
TAG THE LINE - **FACE IN**
SLIDE THRU (same sex)
THOSE WHO CAN START A DIXIE GRAND
ALLE LEFT
- #5
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE
PASS THE OCEAN
ALL 8 CIRCULATE
EXPLODE THE WAVE
PARTNER TRADE
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
SLIDE THRU
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #6
ALLE LEFT - RIGHT & LEFT GRAND
WITH 3RD GIRL - TURN BY THE RIGHT HAND 1/2
MAKE A WRONGWAY THAR
(GIRLS IN THE CENTER)
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #7
SIDE LADIES CHAIN
HEADS STAR THRU & CALIF. TWIRL
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
SWING THRU
SPIN CHAIN THRU - BOYS CIRCULATE ONCE
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #8
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
PASS THE OCEAN
ALL 8 CIRCULATE **TWICE** - TO A SLIDE THRU
SQUARE THRU 4 HANDS
TRADE BY
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #9
FOUR LADIES CHAIN
HEADS RIGHT & LEFT THRU
SIDES LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE
SLIDE THRU
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT
- #10
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE
PASS THE OCEAN
ALL 8 CIRCULATE
CENTERS TRADE - RECYCLE
DIXIE GRAND - LEFT GRAND

DIXIE GRAND MATERIAL (continued)

#11

ALLE LEFT - GO FORWARD TWO
MAKE AN ALLEMANDE THAR
MEN BACK UP
SHOOT THE STAR - GO FWD. TWO
MAKE ANOTHER THAR
MEN BACK UP
SHOOT THE STAR - GO FULL AROUND
TO THIS CORNER
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT

#12

HEADS PASS THE OCEAN
EXTEND
SWING THRU - GIRLS FOLD
PEEL THE TOP
RECYCLE
PASS THRU - WHEEL & DEAL.
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT

#13

HEADS LEAD RIGHT - CIRCLE TO A LINE
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
PASS THRU - WHEEL & DEAL
CENTERS SWING THRU & BOX THE GNAT
LET GO & ZOOM
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT

#14

(**Left** Dixie Grand)
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - VEER LEFT
GIRLS TRADE & BEND THE LINE
PASS THRU - WHEEL & DEAL
CENTERS RIGHT & LEFT THRU &
ALL ROLLAWAY
LEFT DIXIE GRAND
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND

#15

FOUR LADIES CHAIN
HEADS PROMENADE 1/2 WAY
HEADS LEAD RIGHT - VEER LEFT
TAG THE LINE - **FACE IN**
SLIDE THRU (same sex)
THOSE WHO CAN START:
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE - LEFT

#16

(from Squared Set)
ALL FACE PARTNER - DIXIE GRAND
LEFT TOUCH 1/4 TO AN ALAMO
RIGHT & LEFT GRAND.

#17

FOUR LADIES CHAIN
HEADS SQUARE THRU **2 HANDS**
SIDES 1/2 SASHAY
PASS TO THE CENTER
DIXIE GRAND
(all will finish facing same sex)
WALK BY THE NEXT PERSON
SWING YOUR PARTNER
PROMENADE HOME

#18

HEADS SQUARE THRU 4 HANDS
SIDES 1/2 SASHAY
PASS TO THE CENTER
DIXIE GRAND
WALK BY THE NEXT PERSON
STAR THRU WITH NEXT PERSON
(gives 2 couples facing in, 2 facing out)
THOSE LOOKING OUT: PART. TRADE
OTHERS SLIDE THRU
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT

#19

(remember of you are a head or a side)
HEADS SQUARE THRU **2 HANDS**
RIGHT & LEFT THRU
SQUARE THRU - **SIDES ONLY GO 3 HANDS**
(HEADS GO 4 HANDS)
ENDS CIRCULATE - CENTERS PASS THRU
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT

#20

HEADS PASS THRU
SEPARATE - AROUND 1 - TO A LINE
CIRCLE LEFT
CIRCLE RIGHT - GO SINGLE FILE
BOYS TURN BACK
DIXIE GRAND - ALLE LEFT