

# Community Dance



# Journal

A publication of the  
**Committee for  
Community and Traditional Dance**  
of  
**CALLERLAB**  
The International Association  
of  
Square Dance Callers

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## New CCTD Executive

Comments from Bob Riggs

As most of you know a transition in the leadership of the Committee for Community & Traditional Dance has occurred since the last issue of the Journal. Calvin Campbell has stepped down as Chairman after 13 years of dedicated service. Bob Riggs has been requested by the CALLERLAB Executive Committee to take on the Chairmanship. Cal will continue to contribute through the role of Vice-Chair.

Yona Chock recently resigned as the committee's other Vice-Chair. We would like to acknowledge her contributions to the CCTD since the merger of the Contra & Traditional Dance Committee with the Committee for Community Dance, which formed the CCTD.

The committee continues to work on several objectives and needs your help. Please contribute your knowledge and skills in the pursuit of any of our activities. If you don't know what you could do to help please contact me, Bob Riggs, by e-mail at:

[Bob@sde-co.com](mailto:Bob@sde-co.com).

\* We will continue to present and lead the Beginner Dance Party Leader Seminar (BDPLS) during the weekend before the CALLERLAB Convention. Last year we attracted several new attendees so this continues to spread the word about Square Dance Party ideas.

\* We continue to work with the National Dance Association (NDA) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) to encourage educators to develop their skills.

\* The CD Journal is your publication. Contributions of ideas, questions, dance choreography or articles would be greatly appreciated.

## 2008 BDPL Seminar

The eighth annual Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 15, and Sunday, March 16 in the Los Angeles Airport Marriott prior to the start of the 2008 CALLERLAB Convention in Los Angeles, California. The seminar will run from 10 A.M. Saturday to 1:00 P.M. Sunday and will be followed by a Community Dance Party from 3-5 P.M. on Sunday afternoon. Look for more details in the next CD Journal.

## Dances for Small Events

Square Dance Parties sometimes are smaller than anticipated or hoped for. A prepared leader will have considered this possibility and have enough ideas to entertain whoever has arrived. From a few eager dancers larger groups can grow.

In response to a request for help with such events, we are focusing this issue on dances which could be used for unexpectedly small open house events. Here are some ideas for entertaining less than eight dancers.

\* Obviously a Line Dance can be taught to just one dancer.

\* Two dancers can learn a Couple Dance.

\* Four dancers can do Two Couple Square Dancing using calls that only require 4 dancers.

\* There are several Contras designed for 3 couples.

\* It is possible to dance two couple square dance calls in a triangular set of 3 couples. This is a bit of a twist on the usual definitions with some actions using 1/3 turns. Partner pairings may be a bit unexpected and three repetitions may be necessary to return home.

## Line Dance

### Ruby Baby

**Usage:** Easy Solo Dance, 1/4 Turn to the right each time through. Reduce prompts as dance is learned.

**Formation:** No Partners. All start facing the same direction in loose lines.

**Music Options:**

\* "Ruby Baby" with Billy "Crash" Craddock, MCA Records D-2755

\* "Come Go With Me", on Best of 50's Rock 'N' Roll

\* "Heroes", Paul Overstreet

\* "Richest Man on Earth", Paul Overstreet

\* "The Shadow Knows", by Commander Cody and His Space Cadets

**Prompts: (Lines are 4 beats)**

*Intro - - Heel, Step*

**1-4 Heel, Step, Heel, Heel**

**5-8 Toe, Toe, Side, Behind**

**9-12 Turn, Clap, Back 3**

**13-16 - Touch, Heel, Step**

**Alternate Prompts:**

**Right Heel, Left Heel**

**Right Heel twice, Toe twice**

**Grapevine Right & Turn**

**Left Back 3 and Touch**

**Description:**

- 1 Touch right heel in front while bending left knee.
- 2 Step on right foot beside left.
- 3 Touch left heel in front while bending right knee.
- 4 Step on left foot beside right.
- 5-6 Tap right heel in front twice.
- 7-8 Tap right toe back twice.
- 9 Step sideways to right with right foot.
- 10 Cross left behind right, step on left foot.
- 11 Step sideways to right with right foot turning 1/4 to right.
- 12 Touch left foot beside right and at the same time Clap hands.
- 13 Step back on left foot.
- 14 Step back on right foot.
- 15 Step back on left foot.
- 16 Touch right foot beside left foot.

## Couple Dance

### Cotton-Eyed Joe

**Usage:** This is the Texas version of this dance. It is danced with much enthusiasm and vigor. Be prepared for an energetic and cozy dance. Reduce prompts as dance is learned.

**Formation:** Couples, or groups of 3 or 4 arranged one behind the other in a circle like spokes of a wheel. Join hands, place arms around waist, or hands on shoulders of adjacent dancers. For Horse & Buggy Variation have two couples stand one behind the other. Partners join adjacent hands and also join the outside hands with the front dancers reaching back and back dancers reaching forward. In all cases everyone is facing the same direction to move forward in a big circle around the hall.

**Music:** There are lots of versions of "Cotton-Eyed Joe" available. Be aware that some have lyrics that you may find objectionable. Lloyd Shaw E-35 "Cotton-Eyed Joe" is nice.

**Footwork:** Identical footwork for all dancers.

**Prompts:**

*Intro - - - - , - Right Cross, Kick*

**1-8 - Backup 3, - Left Cross Kick**

**9-16 - Backup 3, - Right Cross, Kick**

**17-24 - Backup 3, - Left Cross Kick**

**25-32 - Backup 3, - Run 3's (or 8 Two-Steps)**

**33-64 (Repeat for a total of 8 3's or 8 Two-Steps)**

**Variation for 4 dancers in 2 couples one behind the other:**

**33-48 4 times - -, - - - - / - - - - , - Lead Couple Back**

**49-64 - - - - , - - - - / - - - - , - Right Cross, Kick**

**Description:**

- 1-4 With weight on left foot, swing right foot across in front of left bending right knee and holding right foot in front of left shin. Then kick forward with right foot straightening right knee.
- 5-8 Backup 3 short steps (Right, Left, Right, Pause)
- 9-12 With weight on right foot, swing left foot across in front of right bending left knee and holding left foot in front of right shin. Then kick forward with left foot straightening left knee.
- 13-16 Backup 3 short steps (Left, Right, Left, Pause)
- 17-32 Repeat counts 1-16.
- 33-64 Run forward 3 quick steps and pause on the 4th count (R, L, R, - ; L, R, L, - ; etc.). Or do two-steps which are: step forward on right, close left beside right, step forward on right, pause; step forward on left, close right beside left, step forward on left, pause. Repeat for a total of 8 sets of Run 3 or 8 Two-Steps.

**Horse and Buggy Variation:**

When dancing the two couple version, in the two-steps section go 4 two-steps ahead then the lead couple release their joined hands to turn out and around behind the trailing couple then rejoin hands.

This can be done as a dishrag affair without releasing hands. The lead couple makes an arch for the trailing couple to come through.

## Triplet Contra

### Hagall Triplet (2nd Hannover Triplet)

Heiner Fischle

**Usage:** This can be used in small group situations for new dancers. Although the normal setup would be Ladies facing Gents, any partner pairings will work without problems.

**Formation:** Proper Contra Lines of 3 couples, Ladies in the left line facing the gents in the right line. Partners should be facing each other.

**Music:** Clear 8 beat phrasing and about 120 beats per minute.

#### Prompts:

- Intro* - - - -, *Lines of 3 Forward and Back*  
**1-8** - - - -, **Left Ends Dosado**  
**9-16** - - - -, **Right Ends Dosado**  
**17-24** - - - -, **Centers Dosado**  
**25-32** - - - -, **Top Couple Promenade Down 6 and U Turn Back**  
**33-40** - - - -, **Come Back and Cast Off**  
**41-48** - - - -, **Six Circle Left Halfway and Face Partner**  
**49-56** - - - -, **Pass Thru and U Turn Back**  
**57-64** - - - -, **Lines of 3 Forward and Back**

#### Description:

- 1-8 Lines of 3 Go Forward 3 steps and touch, then Back 3 steps and touch.
- 9-16 The dancers on the left ends of each line diagonally Dosado with the other left end dancer. (To do a Dosado pass each other right side to right side, slide right back-to-back, then back up passing left side to left side to end where the call began.)
- 17-24 The dancers on the right ends of each line diagonally Dosado with the other right end dancer.
- 25-32 The dancers in the centers of each line Dosado straight across with the other center dancer.
- 33-40 Top couple step into the middle, join adjacent hands and Promenade 6 small steps down the inside away from the prompter. On beats 7 & 8 individually turn half around (turn towards partner).
- 41-48 The active couple Promenade back up the inside in 4 larger steps and then Cast Off by separating and walking in a small 3/4 circle around the dancer in the 2nd couple on their own side. The actives should now be in the center of each line of 3.
- 49-56 All six dancers join hands and Circle Left Halfway around so that the two lines have changed sides. (Ladies are now on the right and Gents on the left.)
- 57-64 Pass Thru and U Turn Back. Partners walk by each other passing right shoulders to exchange sides. Then all Turn half around alone to face back in. Progression has occurred. The original 3rd couple is now at the top, the 1st couple is in the middle and the 2nd couple is at the foot.

More triplets and other contras by Heiner Fischle can be found at:

<http://www.heinerfischle.de/contra/hfcontra.htm#triplet>

## 3 Couple Dancing

It is possible to sight call for 3 couples arranged in proper contra lines, Ladies in the left line and Gents in the right line. Here are some more ideas:

- **Lines of 3 Forward & Back**
- **All Six Skinny Circle Left, Skinny Circle Right**
- **All 6 Star Right, Star Left**
- **Opposites Dosado**
- **Lines of 3 Dosado**
- **Top 2 Star Right then Bottom 2 Star Left**

### Mini Kingston Flyer

- **Top Lady Lead the Ladies around the Gents (16 steps).**
- **Top Gent Lead the Gents around the Ladies (16).**
- **Top Couple strut down the center (8) then turn alone and come back (8).**
- **Those two Separate around the outside to the foot (8).**
- **All Dosado Partner (8).**

### Mini Virginia Reel

- **Right Arm Turn Partner (8)**
- **Left Arm Turn Partner (8)**
- **2-Hand Turn Partner (8)**
- **Partner Dosado (8)**
- **Top Couple Sashay Down 8**
- **Top Couple Sashay Back 8**
- **Reel the Set** (Turn partner right forearm round, turn opposite sex dancer in 2nd couple by the left forearm, turn partner by the right, turn opposite sex dancer in 3rd couple by the left, turn partner by the right to end on own side.)
- **Actives Come Back to top**
- **Actives Separate and lead a Cast Off down the outside.** (All of same sex follow leader.)
- **Actives Make a 2-hand Arch**
- **Others come through the Arch to put the previous 2nd couple at the top.**

## Two or Three Couple Square Dancing

### Two Couple Square Dancing

**Formation:** Set up the dancers as half a square with the two couples taking the Head positions (#1 and #3).

**Usage:** It is fairly easy to sight call for two couples. Prepare by making a list of the moves you might use and be creative. The following are some sample bits of choreography for New Dancers:

#### Using Dosado:

- Circle Left, Circle Right, Forward and Back, Dosado Opposite.
- Dosado Opposite, Dosado Partner, Gents Dosado, Ladies Dosado.
- First Couple Dosado #3 Lady, then Left Dosado #3 Gent.
- Third Couple Dosado #1 Lady, then Left Dosado #1 Gent.
- Circle Right full around to home.
- As Couples Dosado, individually Pass Thru and U Turn Back.
- As Couples Left Dosado, individually Left Pass Thru and U Turn Back.
- "Wheelbarrow Dosado" (Join both hands with opposite, Men push to start the Dosado then Ladies push to complete the Dosado).

#### Using Stars:

- Ladies Dosado, Gents Dosado, Circle Left, Circle Right, Star Right, Star Left, Forward and Back, Pass Thru and U Turn Back. Repeat.
- Circle Left, Turn Corner Left, Turn Partner Right, Ladies Star Left, Turn Partner Right full around, Turn Corner Left, Dosado, Promenade
- Circle Left, Star Left, Star Right, Men stop at home, Ladies Star Right, Partner Dosado, Promenade home.
- Circle Left, Circle Right, Men Star Left, Pick up Partner Star Promenade, Men Back out full turn, Ladies In, Star Promenade, Ladies Back out and Circle Left to home.

### Triangle Square Dancing

**Usage:** This is half of a Hexagon dancing by the east coast Hex rules. Below is one possible figure that times out to about 64 beats. It could be combined with Circle choreography to make a singing call.

**Formation:** Three couples arranged in an equilateral triangle. Ladies on the right side of Gents.

#### Prompts:

- Intro - - - -, With your opposite Dosado*
- 1-8 - - - -, Make a Wave and Balance**
- 9-16 - - - -, -- Swing Thru**
- 17-24 - - - -, -- Swing Thru**
- 25-32 - - - -, -- Swing Thru**
- 33-40 - - - -, Turn Partner by the Right**
- 41-48 - - - -, Turn Corner by the Left**
- 49-56 - - - -, -- Promenade home**
- 57-64 - - - -, With your opposite Dosado**

#### Description:

- 1-8 Each dancer's Opposite is also their corner (Gent's left, Lady's right). Opposites Dosado.
- 9-16 Dancers step forward and slightly left to touch right-hands with Opposite. Use hands up styling with elbows bent and right palms of opposite dancers touching. The left hands of the Ladies will meet in the center to form a three-pronged star. Balance with a step forward & touch, step back & touch (4 beats).
- 17-24 Swing Thru: Right Arm Turn Half. Center 3 dancers (Gents) Left Arm Turn 1/3 moving forward to the next outside dancer (Lady).
- 25-32 Repeat Swing Thru (Ladies move forward).
- 33-40 Repeat Swing Thru (Gents move forward).
- 41-48 Right Arm Turn Partner Half and a bit more.
- 49-56 Left Arm Turn Corner Half.
- 57-64 Partners Promenade home half around set.

#### Share Your Ideas

Do you have questions or a favorite Beginner, Community, Traditional or Contra dance? Please send, suggestions and articles to:

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Our goal is to publish three issues of the Community Dance Journal each year.