



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

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## Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar

The 13th Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar (BDPLS) was held in Nashville, Tennessee this year. This event continues to attract about 50 participants over the 2 days and it always provides a fulfilling experience for those who choose to arrive at the annual CALLERLAB Convention early and use the weekend to improve their skills and increase their repertoire for calling Beginner Dance Parties. We will look for you in Raleigh.

### **2012 BDPLS Presentations**

BDPLS Introduction (Bob Riggs)  
Dance Party Variations  
Community Dance Variations  
Easy Contras (Betsy Gotta)  
Traditional Square Dance Material  
(Bob Riggs and Dottie Welch)  
More About Trios (Bob Riggs)  
Fun with Squares, Contras & Mixers  
(Jerry and Kathy Helt)  
Circle Dances, Mixers or Not (Dottie Welch)  
Dance Planning (Susan Morris)  
Non-Dancer Parties (Chris Pinkham)  
Excerpts from Little Black Book (Jim Mayo)  
Tips & Tricks to Entertain Small and Large  
Groups (Bob Riggs)  
Dance Presentation by Participants

### **Where to Begin?**

Jerry Helt demonstrated some useful seat dancing actions. Use your imagination.

Let's Seat Dance:

Circle Left — Join hands, lean to the left

Circle Right — Lean to the right

Star Right — Put the right-hand in

Star Left — Put the left-hand in

How about Going Fishing?

Cast the fly, Let it drift down the stream

Reel in the fish, Put it in the net

Sing Happy Birthday for each month

Those born in the month stand or wave.

### **Jiffy Mixer**

by Jerry & Kathy Helt

**Music:** Lloyd Shaw LS E-35 or Windsor 4684

**Formations:** Double circle of partners facing in butterfly, as a solo in lines, or as two facing lines with dancers moving to the other line when on the end. Men start with left foot or designate a starting foot.

---; **Heel & Toe then side, close, side**

---; -- **The other way back**

---; -- **Chug back & clap (4 times)**

---; -- **Slant right to a new partner**

## Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar 2013

**March 23 & 24, 2013**

**Raleigh (Cary), North Carolina**

**Gather material and enhance your ability to successfully lead community, party, and educational events for new dancers.**

## Resource

### New England Dancing Masters

If you are looking for dance ideas and music, here is a resource to explore. The website is: [www.dancingmasters.com](http://www.dancingmasters.com).

The New England Dancing Masters are based in Brattleboro, Vermont. The group consists of four musicians (Peter & Mary Alice Amidon, Mary Cay Brass and Andy Davis) who play banjo, accordion, and piano. They have created several traditional dance resources for schools and communities. The material available includes books and recordings of traditional social dances and singing games from North America and the British Isles.

There are a few free music downloads and dance descriptions as well as samples of those for sale. Their CD, "Any Jig or Reel", has several excellent tunes for use with contras or mixers.

If you enjoy accordion music, follow the links under the biography of Mary Cay Brass to find other websites of music sources.

### CD Journals Now on the Website

All back issues of the CD Journal are now available on the CALLERLAB website.

From the home page, select "Documents" then select "Community Dance Journals" from the list at the right.

## Traditional Squares

### Sampsonville Quadrille Figure One

From *The American Square Dance* by Margot Mayo

**Formation:** Square

**Music:** Book has sheet music for "Tain't Nuthin'", or try Reels.

**Prompts:**

**(Active couple) Lady to the right and gent to the left**

**Circle three hands around**

**On to the next and four hands around**

**Lady to the right and gent to the left and three hands around**

**Active Couple Swing in the center and right on home**

**All Allemande Left your corner**

**Grand Right and Left**

**Meet your partner (optional Swing) and Promenade home**

**Description:**

- 1-8 Lady #1 go to her right and Circle Left three hands around with Couple #2 while Gent #1 go to his left and Circle Left three hands around with Couple #4.
- 9-16 Lady #1 and Gent #1 go on to Couple #3 and Circle Left four hands once around (end with Couple #1 in center).
- 17-24 Couple #1 California Twirl so that Lady #1 can move to her right and Circle Left three hands around with Couple #4 while Gent #1 can move to his left and Circle Left three hands around with Couple #2.
- 25-32 Couple #1 Swings in the center of the set and adjusts into their home position.
- 33-40 All dancers Allemande Left with their corner.
- 41-48 Grand Right and Left going halfway around the square.
- 49-64 All dancers Swing with their original partner and Promenade home.

### Crooked Stovepipe

From Jim Mayo's *Little Black Book*

**Formation:** Square

**Music:** "Crooked Stovepipe"

**Two Head Ladies go Forward and Back**

**Same Ladies Forward again with a Right Elbow Swing**

**Other six join hands and Circle Left (around the Ladies)**

**Break that ring and everybody Swing**

**Corner Dosado**

**Partner Dosado**

**Promenade**

(Repeat for the side ladies.)

## Mixer

### Haystack Mixer

By Ann Skoe, Canby, Oregon

**Usage:** This is especially apropos for a square dance party because of the charming barn-dance-theme lyrics.

**Formation:** Circle of couples facing counterclockwise with lady on the outside, near hands joined. Begin with outside feet, man's left and lady's right.

**Music:** "Heaven in a Haystack" SSR 806, Phil Kandrut

#### Prompts:

Intro or (Intro music is 16 beats)

**41-48** - - - -; - - **Walk forward 3;**

**1-8** Turn around, back up; - - **Walk forward 3;**

**9-16** Turn around, back up; **Vine apart 3 and clap;**

**17-24** **Together 3 and face; Side, together, side, touch;**

**25-32** **Side, together, side, touch; - Make your haystack;**

**33-40** - - - -; **Push and back away in 4;**

**41-48** - - **Slant Left; - - (Walk forward);**

#### Description:

1-8 Each couple walks forward three steps. On the fourth step they turn towards each other and half around to face reverse and change hands. Dancers then back up four steps (still moving counterclockwise).

9-16 Repeat 1-8 moving clockwise.

17-24 Dancers Vine apart (side, behind, side, touch) and clap on the 4th beat, then Vine together and face on the 8th beat.

25-32 Moving first down line of dance (beginning with man's left and lady's right) dancers step to the side, together, side, touch. Then repeat this to reverse line of dance.

33-40 Dancers raise both hands to make a four-handed haystack overhead with palms against partner's palms. Turn the haystack one full left turn in eight beats.

41-48 Dancers push apart and back away in four steps then slant left to come together with a new partner in 4.

#### Share Your Ideas

Do you have questions, or a favorite  
Beginner, Community, Traditional or Contra dance?

Please send, suggestions and articles to:

Dottie Welch at [dwelch@eastlink.ca](mailto:dwelch@eastlink.ca)

415 Conrad Road, Lawrencetown,

Nova Scotia, Canada, B2Z 1S3

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

## Contra

### Boston Tea Party

By Jean Butler  
(in Captain's Ceilidh)

**Formation:** Six couple proper contra lines (gents in right line facing their partner in left line).

**Music:** Reels or jigs

#### Prompts:

Intro or

**56-64** - - - -; **1s gallop down**

**1-8** **Make an arch over men**

**9-16** **Arch down over ladies**

**17-24** - - - -; **Gallop to top**

**25-32** - - - -; **1s Dip and Dive**

**33-40** **Others Cast Down**

**41-48** **Come through the arch**

**49-56** - - - -; - - - **Swing**

#### Description:

1-8 The couple at the top (nearest caller) gallops (or Sashay) to bottom.

9-16 That couple makes an arch over men with lady on the outside.

17-24 They continue to arch down over ladies.

25-32 The active couple gallops back to top.

33-40 1s face down, others face up and all couples hold hands. Just couple #1 does a Dip and Dive to the bottom.

41-48 The others move up, Cast Out and follow the leaders down the outside.

49-56 At the bottom the 1s make an arch. The Casting couples meet below the arch and lead up through the arch to progressed places.

57-64 Partners Swing if time.

## Circle Mixer

### Marmaduke Mixer

By Allan Brozek from Connecticut

**Source:** Go to [Conntras.org](http://Conntras.org) on the internet (CONNtra CONNectin in CONNecticut) for more information about Allan and additional dances by Connecticut contra callers.

**Usage:** Like Al's "Ten O'Clock Mixer" this is a smooth and simple dance pattern.

**Formation:** Circle of couples facing in, lady on gent's right.

**Music:** "Marmaduke's Hornpipe" on Lloyd Shaw CD Contratoons or other hornpipe played about 118 beats per minute.

#### Prompts:

Intro or

**57-64** - - - -; **All go Forward and Back;**

**1-8** - - - -; **-- Forward and Back;**

**9-16** - - - -; **Ladies left inside Single File Promenade;**

**17-24** - - - -; **-- Reverse back to Partner;**

**25-32** - - - -; **-- Partners Gypsy;**

**33-40** - - - -; **-- Corner Swing;**

**41-48** - - - -; **-- Promenade;**

**49-56** - - - -; **(continue Promenade)**

#### Description:

1-8 All dancers go forward 3 steps and touch, then backup 3 steps and touch.

9-16 Repeat 1-8.

17-24 Ladies step inside and to their left. Promenade in single file (clockwise) while the gents Promenade single file to their right outside (counterclockwise).

25-32 Dancers individually turn around to retrace their path back to their partner.

33-40 Partners Gypsy once around each other (with right shoulders adjacent walk around each other while maintaining eye contact).

41-48 Dancers move forward to their corner (now diagonally to their left) to Swing ending with the lady on the right side of the gent.

49-64 Same two dancers Promenade for 12 steps. During the last 4 beats, face the middle ready to begin the dance again.

## Circle Mixer

### Lancashire Reel Modernized

Traditional Mixer

**Source:** A version of this dance was printed in *Northern Junket* in October 1978. It appears to be a Traditional Mixer from Northern England. The modernized version adjusts the handedness for a more familiar and smooth action.

**Usage:** Beware of left versus right confusion.

**Formation:** Circle of couples, men's back to center, facing partner.

**Music:** A reel or other music with clear 8 beat phrasing. There is sheet music for a 32 bar jig called "Lancashire Reel" available on the internet at [abcnotation.com](http://abcnotation.com).

#### Prompts:

Intro or

**57-64** - - - -; **Partners Left Shoulder Dosado;**

**1-8** - - - -; **To the right Right-hand Star;**

**9-16** - - - -; **Partners Right Shoulder Dosado;**

**17-24** - - - -; **To the left Left-hand Star;**

**25-32** - - - -; **Same two Balance double;**

**33-40** - - - -; **-- Swing;**

**41-48** - - - -; **-- Promenade;**

**49-56** - - - -; **(continue Promenade)**

#### Description:

1-8 Partners begin with a left shoulder pass for a Left Dosado.

9-16 Dancers look diagonally to their right and make a Right-hand Star with that dancer. They turn the Star once around and return to face their partner.

17-24 Partners begin with a right shoulder pass for a normal Dosado.

25-32 Dancers look diagonally to their left and make a Left-hand star with that dancer. They turn the Star once around.

33-40 The same two dancers Balance double (Join both hands, step on right foot, swing left foot diagonally forward and right, step on left foot, swing right foot diagonally forward and left, repeat).

41-48 Same two dancers Swing, thus obtaining a new partner.

49-64 Those two dancers Promenade counterclockwise (or jazz it up with struts).