

TEACHING STUDENTS TO DANCE EFFECTIVELY

In a Large circle with music playing

Start by asking students in a large circle to step in time to music; circle left, circle right the other way back.

Walk single file to your right in the large circle. Men move up or back to walk beside the lady on inside of square walking two by two. Keep walking and shake right hands. This is your partner and join the left hands underneath, now you are promenading with your partner.

Back out join hands to make a big circle and circle left keeping your partner on the man's right. Face your partner bow to your partner, turn your back on your partner and face a new lady we call your corner. Bow to the corner and turn your back on your corner and face your partner. Shake hands with your partner and join your left hands underneath and promenade with your partner. Notice dancers never stopped moving.

In squares, if three couples don't have to sit

Explain heads and sides. Couple numbers later. Re-explain all of the above because there are probably new couples. They can use the reinforcement anyway.

Teach swing (walk around). Buzz swing later. Teach stars left and right. Promenade half. Don't change partners in this tip. If you have a lot of older couples, you may not want to change partners the first night. Nine Pin is a good dance to reinforce swing and couple numbers as part of the second lesson.

Teach courtesy turn by itself.

Teach square through with four boys and then four girls.

Teaching Grand Square - If you get the men to start with the left foot and the ladies to start with their right, dancers won't short cut and turn on three.

You can teach couples circulate by having the heads lead to the right and circle to a line and sides California Twirl. You now have a two face line. Call couples circulate; couples circulate again. You can resolve the square by having the men swing this lady and promenade home. Heads lead right, veer left; you now have a two face line. Couples circulate; couples circulate. Bend the line; star through; pass through; left allemande; promenade.

Columns circulate can be taught by having the heads square thru, and the four ladies do a U turn back. You now have a column. All eight circulate. All eight circulate a second time. Ladies do a U turn back. Left allemande.

Teach wheel and deal from two face lines first.

Interesting Grand Square (not hard)

Sides promenade half; heads grand square. Heads do-si-do; Sides right and left through. Everybody face your corner; left allemande.

Heads star thru; Sides face Grand Square; Heads California twirl; heads cloverleaf; face your corner, left allemande.