

# *Evolution of Chicken Plucker*

by Tim Marriner

The basic module known as Chicken Plucker is a road map for moving active dancers across the set and back. Moreover it's a method of choreographic control that can be disguised anywhere along the journey by inserting zeros, and equivalents. Invert and Rotate modules and/or conversion modules as well as basic methods of sight calling can also be used to enhance the sequence while maintaining control of the floor. By analyzing the pattern one can better appreciate its' use as a method of choreographic control.

## **Chicken Plucker - 101**

From a Zero box the fundamental pattern is:

Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru, Pass Thru, (across the street)  
Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru, Pass Thru

Most callers modify the pattern as:

Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By,  
Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By

Once you have memorized the basic route start modifying its parts with zeros and equivalents. Next, add an Invert and Rotate sequence on either side of the equation and the complexity of the route just grew. Converting to Zero Lines and back to Zero boxes on either side also adds an extra dimension to the pattern.

## **Chicken Plucker - 201**

Instead of moving the active dancers back and forth down the center move them around the outside or a combination of both.

Swing Thru, Boys Run, Couples Circulate (across the street)  
Wheel and Deal, Step to a Wave, All Eight Circulate

## **Chicken Plucker - 301**

Try moving the active dancers across one at a time with Spin Chain Thru and/or Single File Circulate.

Slide Thru, Pass the Ocean, Spin Chain Thru (active man across)  
Boys Run, Bend the Line, Touch ¼, Single File Circulate, Boys Run (active girl across)  
Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By

## **Chicken Plucker - 401**

Try moving the inactive dancers across and back.

Pass Thru, Trade By, Right and Left Thru (across the street)  
Veer Left, Couples Circulate, Wheel and Deal

### **Chicken Plucker - 501**

Try moving the active or inactive dancers around the corner.

Veer Left, Bend the Line, Pass Thru, Bend the Line, Pass the Ocean, Recycle (across the street)  
Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line, Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal, Square Thru 3

There is a lot more to this method of choreographic control than first meets the eye. Having this road map and understanding the pattern is just the first step. Modules can enhance a dance. Developing Get Outs from multiple positions along the route keeps the caller in full control while providing variety. One can provide an endless amount of entertainment by mastering the Chicken Plucker routine.

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