

Alternate Teach for *Follow Your Neighbor***Michael Maltenfort** – maltenfort@yahoo.com

The call *Follow Your Neighbor* seems to confuse many new Plus dancers. The actual CALLERLAB definition is as follows:

FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR - Starting formation - Box Circulate. TIMING - 6

Dancers facing in release hands with the person next to them (their "neighbor") and step straight forward, join adjacent forearms with the one they meet, and turn three-quarters (270 degrees) to become centers of a new wave. At the same time, the dancers facing out follow their "neighbors" by moving forward in a three-quarter looping turn (270 degrees), turning towards their "neighbor" to finish adjacent to their "neighbor" as the ends of the new ocean wave.

When done from right-hand boxes, the dancers facing in turn by the right hand and the dancers facing out loop around right-face, to finish in a left-hand ocean wave. When done from left-hand boxes, the dancers facing in turn by the left-hand and the dancers facing out loop around left-face, to finish in a right-hand ocean wave.



When I taught Plus a few months ago, I had great success using my own, somewhat different definition of *Follow Your Neighbor*.

FOLLOW YOUR NEIGHBOR - Starting formation - Box Circulate. TIMING - 6

Everyone 1/2 Box Circulate (or 1/2 Split Circulate). Then the Centers Cast Off 3/4 and the Ends U-turn Back.

Note: In this definition, "1/2 Box Circulate" is proper for a box of four dancers. If all eight dancers are doing *Follow Your Neighbor*, it should always be called as "1/2 Split Circulate."

I believe my definition has several advantages over the standard CALLERLAB definition, the most important of which is, it's far simpler. How much time does it take for a dancer to wade through the standard definition vs. my simplified version?

While I'm certainly not advocating a change in the CALLERLAB definition, I've found my version is easier to teach.

For example, when dancing *1/2 Split Circulate*, the Trailers won't automatically reach out to each other with right hands--they know to walk straight ahead. Suddenly, *Follow Your Neighbor* is nearly as easy for the dancers from a Left-Hand box as a Right-Hand box – and you've just taught them an APD call.

This definition is also easier for the Leaders, who don't go wandering because they're uncertain of how far to walk and where to end the call. This definition gets them to exactly the right position on the floor, which isn't such an easy task when you try to follow the CALLERLAB definition. (Besides, the angels may not be much help if they're only used to dancing *Follow Your Neighbor And Spread*.)

This definition also breaks up the call into two parts. While teaching, it helps me to pause after *1/2 Split Circulate*. This gives the dancers some certainty about where they're going. (Of

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Follow Your Neighbor, continued

course, after dancers get the hang of the call, tell them they should “dance the whole call in one smooth motion.”)

To make teaching even easier, I suggest working in *1/2 Split Circulate* (also *Split Circulate 1-1/2*) early in the Plus teaching order. Once the dancers already know *1/2 Split Circulate*, it's a (comparative) breeze to teach them *Follow Your Neighbor*. (Keep in mind that *1/2 Split Circulate* is also a worthwhile Mainstream call in itself -- and a fun way to create Diamonds at Plus and higher levels.)

There is one rare problem with this new definition: Leaders may be uncertain of which way to *U-Turn Back*. The phrase "*U-turn Back* towards partner," may seem ambiguous here.

In these cases, just remind the Leaders that *U-Turn Back* is defined in flow direction (as if it was “...and *Roll Twice*”), so they just keep turning, in place, the same direction as the *1/2 Split Circulate*.

C1 and higher dancers: this is also a great definition to use when dancing with phantoms.

In upcoming issues, I'll talk about alternate teaching definitions for several other calls.



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