

TO DANCERS IN ADVANCED CLASS OR ADVANCED WORKSHOP

by Ed Foote

It is vital that you have solid knowledge of the Mainstream and Plus calls, because all Advanced calls are based on calls on these two lists. Solid knowledge means knowing the calls from a variety of positions and being able to dance them from these positions. In fact, printed on the CALLERLAB Advanced Program list of calls is this statement: "In an Advanced Dancing program, dancers are expected to understand the Mainstream, Plus and Advanced calls from most, but not necessarily all, formations, positions and arrangements. Dancers are also expected to understand the concept of the calls they dance."

Although the term "Dance By Definition," meaning to know calls from a variety of positions, is not a specific program, its abbreviation of "DBD" is widely used and will be used for convenience in this article.. .

Because DBD is not used at most MS and Plus dances, the only place to learn it when entering Advanced is in Advanced class. For every A-1 call taught, the instructor should go back and review one MS or Plus call DBD. Since there are only about 30 calls on these two lists that lend themselves to heavy DBD, this means that by the time the class has completed A-1, the class will also have completed the MS and Plus DBD review.

While most callers agree that such a DBD review should occur in A-1 class, many callers do far less than is needed. They become enamored with the Advanced "names" and forget about doing much MS or Plus review. More regrettably, many callers will do the review in class and then never use MS and Plus DBD at Advanced classes. So the dancers forget what they learned and regress back to having a weak foundation. One third of A-1 dances and 10% of A-2 dances should consist of MS and Plus DBD, so that dancers can maintain a solid foundation in the Basics.

If you are in Advanced class, insist that your instructor give you DBD review on MS and Plus. If you are in an Advanced workshop, be sure to request this. You can drill all you like on the Advanced calls, but if you do not have the solid MS and Plus DBD foundation, you will have less confidence and more breakdowns.

What should you ask your caller to review? Here are some of the key calls and the formations from which you should be familiar.

1. **Point-to-Point Diamonds**, using Cut the Diamond & Flip the Diamond.
2. **All 8 Circulate** from inverted lines and 3&1 lines,
3. **Scoot Back** from left-hand waves and same sex waves,
4. **Pass to the Center** using 1/2 sashayed couples,
5. **Slide Thru** from 1/2 sashayed couples and same sexes facing.
6. **Run**, with emphasis on dancers running left,
7. **Spin the Top** from facing couples, both standard and 1/2 sashayed,
8. **Fan the Top** from facing couples, both standard and 1/2 sashayed,
9. **Wheel & Deal** from facing lines,

10. **Zoom** from completed double pass thru, columns, and ends of waves,
11. **Peel Off** from starting double pass thru and columns.
12. **Roll**, added to numerous calls, not just after Partner Trade, such as after Wheel & Deal, Ferris Wheel, Fan the Top, Peel Off,
13. **Follow Your Neighbor/Spread** from standard waves and left-hand waves,
14. **Coordinate** from starting columns where each girl is behind a boy, and from left-hand columns.
15. **Load the Boat** from a starting double pass thru where only the centers are told to do the call. Also fractionalizing Load the Boat, so that dancers know the true definition,
16. **Peel the Top** from waves where the boys are ends and are told to Fold behind the girls; likewise from left-hand waves; also, from right and left-hand columns.
17. **Spin Chain the Gears/Exchange the Gears**, where the star is told to turn other than the standard $\frac{3}{4}$; also from left-hand waves,
18. **Relay the Deucey** from waves with boys in the center, mixed sex waves and left-hand waves.

Be a confident dancer! If you thoroughly understand the MS and Plus Basics, your success at Advanced will be greatly magnified.