

EXPLODE THE LINE: HOW TO DANCE IT SMOOTHLY

All Advanced dancers know the standard definition of this A-1 call: From lines facing out, the centers step forward as the ends slide together. Then all Quarter In, and right-hand pull by.

So if everyone knows the definition, why is the call danced so sloppily? Why are the ends and centers always bumping in to each other? Possible reasons: (1) centers forget to step forward, (2) centers do not step forward far enough, (3) ends mistakenly step forward.

There is one styling hint that solves all of this and results in smooth dancing of the call. Upon hearing "Explode the Line," **THE ENDS MUST ROCK BACKWARDS 1/2 STEP BEFORE DOING THE QUARTER IN.**

This will completely clear the ends away from the centers, and thus enable the pull by to be done smoothly by everyone.

REMEMBER: ENDS ROCK BACKWARD 1/2 STEP BEFORE DOING THE QUARTER IN. Tell everyone you know, including callers who are teaching Advanced classes and workshops.

PAIR OFF: UNDERSTANDING THE DEFINITION

Dancers think they know the definition of the A-1 call Pair Off, but many people do not. This is proven when Pair Off is called from facing lines and half the dancers face the wrong way. I see this happen all the time.

Why do dancers not know the definition of this call? Because most callers only call Pair Off from a squared set. So dancers memorize that usage and never think about the true definition.

The definition is: Take the person you are facing and Face Out. In other words, **TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CENTER OF THE SET.**

That's it. Remember these words and you will never break down on Pair Off. **TURN YOUR BACK ON THE CENTER OF THE SET.**