



FACING LINES SIGHT RESOLUTION

By Ed Foote

- I. A. Establish a primary couple. This should be the easiest couple in the square for you to recognize.
- B. Establish the secondary couple. This is always the couple immediately to the left of the primary couple in a squared set.
- II. Call anything you want. When you want to get the square to a Left Allemande:
 - A. Get the square to facing lines. This lets you see what is going on.
 - B. Get the square to "normal" facing lines (boy-girl-boy-girl) if it is not already this way.

Important: In steps A & B, do not think about the primary couple or secondary couple and who they have for a partner. If you think about this, it will make things a lot more confusing for you when you are learning the system.

- C. Get primary man with his partner on the left side of normal facing lines of 4. This should take no more than 4 to 6 calls to accomplish.
- D. Look at secondary girl.
 1. If she has her original partner:
 - a. Across from primary couple: "Left Allemande" immediately or memorized get-out (such as Slide Thru, Square Thru 3/4, Left Allemande.)
 - b. In same line as primary couple: "Star Thru, Pass Thru, Left Allemande".
 2. If secondary girl does not have her original partner, she will have her opposite. When this is so, the next two calls are automatic: "Pass Thru, Wheel and Deal."
 - a. One of 2 calls will now bring everyone to his corner: either "Centers Pass Thru" or "Centers Square Thru 3/4." Merely look at the square and determine which of these calls will bring the secondary girl to the primary man for a Left Allemande, and then call it.

Tips for using this sight resolution method:

1. Follow this system exactly as is until you become comfortable with it. You will eventually find short-cuts and variations which you can use that will bring you to a Left Allemande even faster, but do not try to rush into these. Get completely confident with the basic system so that you can always fall back on it if you get into trouble with variations.
2. Do not attempt to practice this system for the first time at a regular dance. You are likely to make mistakes because the procedure is new to you, and these mistakes made to a floor of several sets will cause you to lose confidence in the system. Practice with one square in a basement for an evening before trying it out at your club.

3. You should establish primary and secondary couples in at least 3 squares. The odds of 3 squares breaking down at the same time are rather remote. If you establish primary and secondary couples in only 2 squares, the odds are much greater that both could break down at the same time. If you establish only 1 square, you're asking for trouble because if this square breaks down you have no backup square for getting to a left allemande.
4. During the course of a dance, you may occasionally forget who people are and get the floor to a wrong corner. Don't worry about this as long as it happens very infrequently. Most dancers enjoy having the caller make an occasional mistake, and you can use this to help establish greater rapport with the floor.

Note: If you forget who the primary and secondary couples are as you are calling, you can usually save yourself by the following method: Ask one man who his corner is (just say over the mike: "Bill, who's your corner?"). The man who you asked has now become your primary couple and the girl he points to is part of the secondary couple. Now just follow the system to get everyone to a left allemande. This works beautifully at your home club where you know all the dancers; it will also work with a floor of strangers as long as you know a couple people in the room that you can call upon.

5. You should memorize a few "opposite get-outs" - a sequence of calls to get the primary man with his partner if he has his opposite. Examples from facing lines of four: (1) Star thru, dive thru, pass thru, star thru (2) square thru, trade by, star thru. This will help you in moving people around the square quickly.
6. In facing lines of four with the primary couple together on one side of the line, if the secondary man does not have his original partner he must have his opposite girl. This means the secondary man's original partner will be in the other line diagonally across from him. If she is not there, but rather is directly across from him or in the same line with another man, then you know the square has made a mistake somewhere along the way. Immediately forget this square and go to another square to get to your left allemande.

Remember: This sight resolution system will always work no matter what you have called up to the point you begin to use it. The only times it will not work is when you use an oddball call somewhere along the way that has only $\frac{1}{2}$ the set active; such as "couples 1 & 2 right and left thru"; "3 & 4 ladies chain"; etc.

After you have used this system for a while, you will see a number of shortcuts you can use. These are not mentioned here, because if they were everyone would try and learn the shortcuts first instead of learning the basic system. Once you are comfortable with this system you should, at any given instant in your calling, be able to get the square to a left allemande in 12 seconds or less.