

SECRET HINTS FOR DANCING LOAD THE BOAT

If Load the Boat is going to break down, it will be due to the centers. The reason is that the initial Pass Thru in the center is too big. This happens because the dancers take two full steps after passing shoulders in the Pass Thru.

The result is the center box is now so big that people lose their orientation, which causes the square to break down. Or, if the square does not break down, it takes too long to finish the call, which means the square is now behind the other squares on the floor.

SECRET HINT. The centers Pass Thru must be VERY SHORT. In other words, after the centers pass right shoulders in doing the initial Pass Thru, they must IMMEDIATELY turn their back on the flagpole center of the square.

As a caller, how do I get them to do this? By painting a visual picture of what should happen. I say these specific words: "You must stay very close to the person with whom you are doing the Pass Thru. This means the material on your sleeve should be in constant contact with the material on the other person's sleeve - during the 'turn out' part and also during the Partner Trade."

I also tell them that they are too far apart if any daylight can be seen between their shoulder and the other person's shoulder during the "turn out" and the Partner Trade."

Then, as a joke, but also to paint the visual picture, I say: "Think of it as a no-hands Yellow Rock."

Dancers will often treat this as a fun thing and start bumping each other intentionally, but it means they have gotten the idea,

I have found that these 3 visual pictures: material on the sleeves, no daylight and the Yellow Rock, get the job done.

If you are a dancer helping out a Plus class, and the caller does not emphasize this idea of being very close in the center, be sure and tell people what has been mentioned here. You will be helping them a great deal.

NOTE: Sometimes the centers, after the initial Pass Thru, will face in (instead of out) and then slide sideways. This puts them in the correct position, but they have made 2 mistakes to get there. I have seen this done by people who have been dancing for years.

For some reason, it is always the girls who do this, never the boys. Perhaps it is a psychological thing that girls do not want to turn their back on someone.

If a person is doing this, they need to be corrected right away, because if they keep doing this for a long time it will be very difficult for them to break the habit later. If they encounter a caller at a workshop who starts fractionalizing the center part, they will break down the square. It also means that anyone seeing them dance this way will think they are a poor dancer.

If you are a dancer helping out at a Plus class, and you see someone doing this, be sure to say something to that person during the break. The action is so subtle that the caller may miss seeing it while calling.

WHAT TO TELL THE OUTSIDES. They have the easy part - just pass 3 people and face in. The only thing they may do wrong is go too slow. If this happens, tell them to speed up.