



## **HINTS FOR REMEMBERING WHO THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY COUPLES ARE IN THREE SQUARES**

By Ed Foote

1. Remember that the primary couple should be the one couple in a square that is easiest for you to remember; maybe they have same color clothes, they are close friends, etc. For whatever reason, the one couple that comes to mind first when you look at a square should be your primary couple.
  - A. Couple number in the square is of no concern. In one square the primary couple may be #1, in another set it may be #4, etc.
  - B. If you look at a square and no couple readily stands out for you, do not use this square at all; find another square where one couple will stand out in your mind. The rule of thumb is: make it as easy as you can to remember the primary couple, so that the only "thinking" you have to do is about the secondary couple.
2. By making the primary couples the ones that stand out readily in your mind, you have to do virtually no work to remember them - your mind will do so automatically. Thus for 3 squares, instead of having to remember 6 couples you really only have to work at remembering 3 couples - the secondary couples.
  - A. At your home club, choose 4 or 5 couples who have good dancing ability and make these your permanent primary couples every tip every week. They will usually be spread out over at least 3 sets, and after a couple nights they will become so "burned" into your mind that your only work will be to remember 3 secondary couples. You can also try establishing permanent secondary couples.

If 2 or 3 of these couples get in one square, you have two choices: (1) Do not use this square for this tip - use other squares. (2) Use the alphabet - make the couple with the first letter of the last name closest to "a" the primary couple. Since presumably you know the names of all the couples in your club, this should be no problem.
  - B. As a guest caller, once you have located some couples who stand out in your mind, stick with them as your primary couples all night. It will become easier to remember them each succeeding tip, and so once again your only "work" will be to remember the secondary couples.
3. Establish some general rules of thumb to help yourself. Examples could be as follows:
  - A. When using colors of clothes to remember couples, always make the primary couple the one who has dark colored (or light colored) clothes on. Also, do not use squares that have 2 or 3 couples wearing the same color clothes.
  - B. Because tall couples are more prominent in a square, try to make them the primary couples. Big couples tend to be very "visible" and thus make good primary couples.
  - C. Try and use squares in the front of the hall, because generally this is where the better dancers tend to dance, and they are not as likely to break down as often. However, try and establish primary and secondary couples in at least one set in the center of the hall, and watch this set as much as possible. If you only look at sets in the front of the hall, you will give an appearance of only calling to these people and ignoring the rest of the hall, and this is not a good image to convey.
4. At the beginning of each tip, call several quick left allemandes using a different square each time to get to the corner. This will help reinforce in your mind who the primary and secondary couples are in each square so that you don't forget later on. You may decide to concentrate on one square most of the tip, but if they break down you can more easily get to a quick left allemande with one of the other squares, because you have already used them once to get to a corner.