

UNDERSTANDING CYCLE & WHEEL

DEFINITION: From a 3&1 line: the adjacent dancers facing the same direction will do a Wheel & Deal, while adjacent dancers facing opposite directions will do a Recycle. **ENDING POSITION:** There are only two possible ending positions: a box of four with (1) all four dancers facing, or (2) a lead couple and a trailing couple.

RULE: Dancers NEVER finish back-to-back.

The purpose of this article is to emphasize the Rule, because sometimes dancers mistakenly try to finish back-to-back. Remember the Rule: You NEVER finish back-to-back.

If you are content with knowing the Rule and do not care why the Rule exists, you can stop reading now. But I would encourage you to read the last two paragraphs of this article.

WHY THIS RULE IS TRUE. The ending position of Cycle & Wheel is based on Wheel & Deal. The key on both calls is the **FACING DIRECTION OF THE ENDS**.

For Wheel & Deal, if the ends are facing opposite directions, it means the formation is a two-faced line. We know that Wheel & Deal from a two-faced line gives facing couples. The same is true of Cycle & Wheel: if the ends are facing opposite directions, the ending position is facing couples.

For Wheel & Deal, if the ends are facing the same direction, it means the formation is a line with all dancers facing the same direction. We know that a Wheel & Deal from here will have the right-side couple go first and will finish with a lead couple and a trailing couple.

The same is true for Cycle & Wheel: if the ends are facing the same direction, the right side couple goes first, and we finish with a lead couple and a trailing couple. How do we know which is the right-side couple? Just look at the ends. The right-side end and partner will finish as the lead couple.

Just as a Wheel & Deal can never finish with couples back-to-back, and since Cycle & Wheel is based on Wheel & Deal, likewise Cycle & Wheel can never finish with couples back-to-back.

WHY DANCERS GET IN TROUBLE. The majority of the time callers will call Cycle & Wheel from lines where the ends are facing opposite directions. So the dancers will tend to expect that they will finish facing each other any time they hear the call.

But if the caller calls Cycle & Wheel from lines where the ends are facing the same direction, the dancers sometimes scramble to their ending position because they do not experience this situation as often, and they may inadvertently finish back-to-back -- which is always wrong.

RULE: Ends facing opposite directions -- dancers finish facing. Ends facing the same direction -- dancers finish with one couple in front of the other.

KEY HINT FOR THE DANCERS. When you hear Cycle & Wheel, before taking a step, turn your head sideways and notice the facing direction of the ends. This will tell you the ending position before you have committed yourself. Now it's easy just to move to that position.