

## UNDERSTANDING LEADERS & TRAILERS

by Ed Foote

**DEFINITION:** In a Box of 4: a **Leader** is looking at no one, a **Trailer** is looking at a body (either the front, back or side of a body).

Saying it another way: a **Leader** has their back to the center of the box, a **Trailer** has their nose to the center of the box.

**Leaders and Trailers ALWAYS** refers to each Box of 4 in the set **at the same time**.

The only time Leaders and Trailers refers to the Center Box is if the caller first says: "In the Center Box..."

### EXAMPLES:

**1. From a Completed Double Pass Thru**, the outsides are the Leaders, and the insides are the Trailers.

**2. From a Starting Double Pass Thru**, the centers are the Leaders, and the outsides are the Trailers.

Note: The fact that the centers are facing someone makes no difference — it's immaterial. Remember: Leaders and Trailers refers to your **own** box of 4, not someone else's Box of 4. In this example, the centers are facing another Box of 4; so for purposes of this example, this other Box of 4 does not exist in determining Leaders and Trailers.

**3. From a Trade-By formation**, everyone is a Leader. The fact that four dancers are facing each other in the center means nothing. The rest of the Box of 4 for each dancer in the center is behind them, so because they are looking at no one in the Box of 4, they are Leaders.

**4. From an Eight Chain Thru formation**, everyone is a Trailer.

**5. From Facing Lines**, everyone is a Trailer.

**6. From Lines facing out**, everyone is a Leader.

**7. From Parallel Ocean Waves:** Set-up: From a Corner Box, "All Touch 1/4." The girls are the Leaders and the boys are the Trailers.

**8. From Right-Hand Columns:** Set-up: From Partner Lines, "All Touch 1/4." The girls are the Leaders and the boys are the Trailers. The fact that the center girls are facing a boy's back **means nothing**. That's the other box, so it is not involved.

**9. From Right-Hand Columns:** Set-up: From Partner Lines, "All Touch 1/4." The caller now says: "In the Center Box, Leaders Turn Back." This means the boys Turn Back. Why? Because **for**

**purpose of this one call**, the caller has identified a specific Box, so the other 4 dancers on the outside of the square do not exist. But it is for this one call **ONLY** that they do not exist; for the next call they exist again, unless the caller once again identifies only the Center Box.

Could the caller have said instead: “Center boys Turn Back”? Of course, and that would probably be the better call. This example is used only to illustrate an aspect of Leaders and Trailers.

**10. From a Completed DPT**, the caller says: “Leaders face your partner.” Now everyone is a Trailer, because everyone is facing a body. (The centers are facing the side of a body, but it is still a body.)

#### **COMMENTS.**

“Leaders” and “Trailers” are not used in a Tidal Wave, because there is no Box of 4.

**Remember the fundamental rule:** Leaders and Trailers applies **ONLY** to your own box of 4, independent of any other Box of 4.