

WHEEL THRU: WHAT MOST DANCERS DO NOT REALIZE

By Ed Foote

Wheel Thru (A-1 call) definition: From facing couples, the right side dancers do a right-face turn, while the left-side dancers pass right shoulders with each other to finish standing beside their original partner. The call equals a Lead to the Right.

Formations. Wheel Thru is done from many formations, including: facing lines, centers in a starting double pass thru, the centers in a trade-by set-up, the centers from inverted lines where the centers are facing in and the ends are facing out, and from a squared set (designated couples are told to Wheel Thru).

How it should be danced. In all but one set-up, the right-side dancers must NEVER step forward as they do their quarter right - they must do the quarter right in place. If they step forward, they get in the way of the left-side dancers who are trying to pass each other.

The problem. Unfortunately, the right-side dancers mistakenly often do step forward. This results in awkwardness for the left-side dancers to do their part, and can lead to a square breakdown.

WHAT MOST DANCERS DO NOT REALIZE. Wheel Thru from a squared set is danced differently from any other formation. A squared set Wheel Thru is the EXCEPTION TO THE RULE for how the call is danced elsewhere.

Why does this exception exist? Because Wheel Thru equals a Lead to the Right, from a squared set the right-side dancers MUST step forward as they do their quarter right. They must do this in order to finish facing the inactive couple, because this is how the call finishes when done from a squared set.

Why do dancers get confused? Because many callers only call Wheel Thru from a squared set, the dancers come to believe that THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE is in fact THE RULE. This is the trap.

Because the dancers hear Wheel Thru from a squared set far more often than from any of the other formations named above, they think that how they dance it from a squared set is how they should always dance it. So the right-side dancers think they should always step forward as they do their quarter right, no matter from what formation the call is given.

Lesson to be learned. Dancers must remember that how they do Wheel Thru from a squared set is DIFFERENT from any other starting formation. If dancers forget this, then they will always have a problem dancing the call from these other formations.