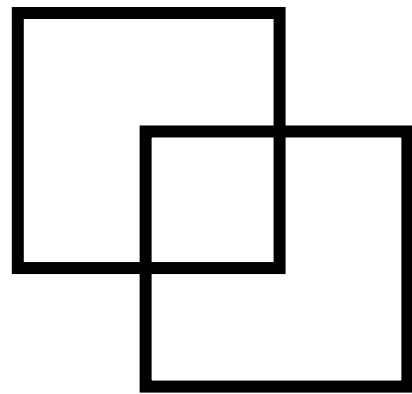


Beginners Teaching Guide (BTG)



By
Mike Sikorsky

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Chapter 1: Introduction

This Beginners Teaching Guide (BTG) should prove to be your ultimate resource in helping you take new Student Dancers all the way from the first lesson thru any destination point you desire, all the way thru Plus if you wish.

You will read about teaching techniques, do's and don'ts for many different situations, and variabilities that so often happen when we are teaching.

You will also be encouraged along the way and taught how to emphasize not just the teaching but creating the desire to learn in each Student Dancer. It will require that you are a Square Dancer capable of dancing the destination program which you desire to teach to your Student Dancers.

I have been developing these teaching techniques throughout my 52+ years of Square Dance calling and teaching. I am now in the process of writing them down in this document for everyone else to utilize.

As far as I know, this is the only beginners teaching guide that utilizes muscle memory and social conditioning in every step of teaching. Early evidence suggests it helps create happier dancers, better dancers, less dropouts, with more people joining clubs and staying in Square Dancing longer.

The BTG is a document that is a work in progress. Each time a new version is published, it is emailed out to everyone on my email list with all parts being hyperlinked. If you are teaching new Student Dancers, I strongly encourage you to join the email list. It's free.

Please say in your email that you wish to be added to the list and send it to this email address:

arizonacaller@gmail.com

Once you join, you will never be removed from the list unless you specifically request removal.

Here's wishing us all great success in creating happy, successful, long-term Square Dancers.



Mike Sikorsky

Chapter 2: In the Beginning

Your Student Dancer lesson one will be defined in the BTG as the first lesson attended by a Student Dancer. This means if you get first timers attending your lesson number three, you treat it mostly as if it is lesson one for everyone. Of course, you will want to vary the material slightly so that returnees are not bored with a complete repeat. This is always a tricky process and there is no definite formula.

It seems best to start people in a Grand Circle. If this is lesson two or three and you are treating it as lesson one because some Student Dancers are returnees and some are new, you can maybe put people right into Squares and help the newbies get in position within the Square. You then tell them this is their Home for this tip, and then begin your teaching and dancing them.

Your first calls, from a Grand Circle or Squared Set, are usually Bow to Your Partner. Then tell them the other one next to them on their other side is their Corner, so Bow to the Corner. This seems to be done instinctively, so it probably does not require a teach.

The same seems to apply to Circle Left and Circle Right, which are your next calls. Keep reminding them to hold their hands gently with Right palm up and Left palm down, as per current CALLERLAB specs, but truly at this stage it's not really important. It's more important they step to the music and keep moving with a smile on their face. Remember, that smile is probably hiding sheer terror!

You may think you are being kidded right now, but the fear of humiliation is very real for many of your Student Dancers.

During their first tip on a Square Dance floor, you will stop them and have them to Face their Partner and tell them we're going to learn how to do a Dosado. Tell them when you call Dosado, they will walk forward past each other passing Right shoulders, then they will move sideways back-to-back until they can back up passing Left shoulders to Face each other again. This is a great risk for them because they've been holding hands with a person on either side of them for their first five minutes of square dancing and now you're asking them to lose sight of their partner!

You may get the occasional gentleman who will turn around and face his Corner girl by mistake. You can always say "no sir, you don't get another woman yet, come back and face your Partner!". Humor is usually the best medicine. You can say a similar thing to a woman who turns to face her Corner by mistake. The reward for completing Dosado correctly, of course, is Face In and join hands and Circle Left then Circle Right.

From the Grand Circle you did during the first tip, if you had time within the 10 minutes you had to work with, you might have had them after they did Circle Right to Drop Hands and go Single File. If you did, you then can have the Boys step forward and walk on the inside of the Circle next to their Partner. When they are beside their Partner, have them join Right hands and then join Left hands below that and tell them this is a

Promenade. If you did not do this before, do it now. Then, have them Circle Left then Circle Right till they get Home. You might then tell them to take their Partner and Promenade all the way around until they get Home.

Make sure you have your timer going so you stop after about 10 minutes of teaching and calling. Second tip, have them be in a Grand Circle again and simply call Circle Left, Circle Right, Face your Partner, Dosado, Face the Center and Circle Left again.

Then it's time to stop them after this couple minutes during your second tip and reconfigure them into Squares. In a group of 12 couples or more, consider picking one couple and have move to the right and pick up three more couples to form their own 4 Couple Circle. Then have the nearest omitted couple move to the right and pick up 3 Couples and form their own 4 Couple Circle. It's best then to continue the process until the Grand Circle has completely morphed into 4 Couple Circles. This is when you remove helpers as needed to add in every omitted Student Dancer or add in helpers to complete Squares with eight people each. If for some reason this does not work, you will need to have some of your Student Dancers sit out initially. Just make your tips only five minutes long so you can substitute Student Dancers in every five minutes. In this case, your patten tip should probably be about 15 minutes total.

You do whatever it takes at this point to get people into Squares.

Then help align each Circle as a Square, with each couple having their back to a different wall.

At this point, you need to tell your Student Dancers that this is their Home position. Identify that the Heads are the couples that have their back to the Caller wall and the couples that are across the Square facing the Caller wall. Then tell them that the Side couples are the ones with their ears pointed towards the Caller wall. You might then have them Circle Left, Allemande Left (the teach is described below), and Promenade Home. Then make sure you call Head couples move up to the middle and back and Side couples move up to the middle and back. Move up to the middle and back should also be an instinctive action and not require a teach.

To teach Allemande Left, have them face their Corner. Have the gentleman extend his Left hand to her, palm up. Have the Lady place her forearm in his hand with her Left hand on top of his left forearm in a gentle hold. Then they will turn forward around each other until they can see their Partner again, and then let go of their Corner and Step forward to Face their Partner. Have them turn around, face their Corner again, and Allemande Left again. Now have them Promenade all the way around Home.

Please note herein that it is very counterproductive to teach Right and Left Grand from a Grand Circle. It is way too early to have them have a different Partner. That's why we have not taught it yet.

If you did not have time to teach Promenade during the first Grand Circle tip, teach it now as described above.

As a side note, please observe that you are being advised to teach your Student Dancers Promenade with the Boys Left hand palm down and the Right-hand palm up. Obviously, this is in contradiction to the traditional Boys palms up "landing field" approach. It may not matter a lot but the Left-hand palm down and the Right-hand palm up supports that hand position for all Square Dancing, consistent with CALLERLAB specs.

Moving on, you also could probably teach Pass Thru during the second tip or the third tip. First, have the Heads step into the middle and Dosado with the person in front of them and return Home. Then have the Sides do it. Then have the Heads step into the middle and tell them we're going to learn Pass Thru. Tell them it's the first half of Dosado, but just keep walking forward to Face Out. Then tell them to Promenade around the outside back Home. Then call it for the Sides. About the third time you've told someone to Promenade Home, you will see the light go on in their eyes! That light could be best described as "this looks like a Square and I'm home! I'm a Square Dancer!"

This is also probably the time to begin teaching Ladies Chain. Have the Head Ladies step to the Center and touch right hands at nose level with their fingers pointed up and touching like a teepee. Tell them they will walk past each other and let go of that touch and offer their left hand to the man across the square from them. You may need to help with gentle hands on. The man takes the Girl's Left hand with his Left hand and as she walks toward his Left shoulder he will turn and put his Right hand on the small of her back. They will then both turn as a Couple to Face back In at a Home position in the Squared Set. Tell them their hands now return to an inside hand touch, his Right hand up and her Left hand down in his hand. Yes, it's proper at this time to tell your Student Dancers that this part of Ladies Chain is called the Courtesy Turn and will be used in other calls they learn later.

You can then have those Ladies Chain back Home. Then do it for the Sides, across and back Home. At some point either this lesson or a subsequent lesson like two or three and when they seem to be doing Ladies Chain with lots of confidence, you can quickly tell them All four Ladies do it at the same time and call it 4 Ladies Chain.

It would also be appropriate at about this time to inform your Student Dancers that the couple with their back to the Caller wall is Couple Number One, the Couple to the Right of them is Couple Number Two, the couple across from Couple Number One is Couple Number Three, and the couple to the Left of the Number One Couple is Couple Number Four.

Is probably a good thing at this point to help your Student Dancers understand which way is Left and which way is Right. The above couple numbering helps a lot in this which way is left which way is right effort.

You should also notice that at this time that this teaching of Courtesy Turn has the Boys with Left palms down (slight handshake touch). There are some who feel that the Courtesy Turn should have the Boy with his Left palm up as per the traditional way of doing it. Personally, I think its misdirected attention having them learn Courtesy Turn the

traditional way when there's so much more to learn, when the consistency of Right palm up and Left palm down is so important to building Student Dancer confidence. You can always change the styling of Courtesy Turn to the more traditional form at a later date if you wish. But should probably not be emphasized this early in their Square Dance life.

So, after they've been Home enough times to feel they are now Square Dancers, it's time to reteach and/or review Allemande Left. Make sure you have at least one minute remaining in your 10-minute time block to review all of the calls by calling them.

It's good to reteach or review Allemande Left at this time just to smooth out weird arm turns and holding on too long and other possible trouble spots.

By the end of lesson two, you probably should have taught them Right and Left Grand (as described below), but only from a Squared Set. (You do not need them finding another Partner yet. It's too early in their Square Dance life).

Tell them they will start with a gentle Right handshake and continue walking forward with a Right Pull By and a Left Pull By and a Right Pull By and a Left Pull By. Tell them they will be facing their Partner again when the call is completed. Right now is the time you need to stress that a Pull By is defined as gently holding a handshake, and as those joined hands pass their hips, they let go and keep walking forward. It's best to emphasize this now before helpers get too aggressive and beginners hold on way too long and end up turning out and away by mistake.

At the end of Right and Left Grand, you can have them Dosado and then Promenade Home, or just Promenade Home. This material probably will fill up the first two and maybe three lessons.

Do not teach Weave the Ring yet. You will probably teach Weave the Ring lesson five or six when you are adding it into a singing call. Waiting until lesson five or six to teach Weave the Ring means you can immediately add it into a singing call at that time without a walk thru. It will just take a brief explanation. It's best to only use Weave the Ring in singing calls for the first 20 lessons or so. You have plenty more stuff to teach them and keep them entertained as they progress thru the class to its completion. They have lots to learn, so it's best to keep Right and Left Grand as Patter and Weave the Ring as a singing call addition. The call separation this gives them in their minds is extremely productive in their learning process. Also, this means Weave the Ring is the extra little treat they experience when dancing a singing call.

Chapter 3: In the Beginning Continued

If you have time, it seems best to always go ahead and teach Square Thru (described later in this chapter) soon after you have taught 4 Ladies Chain. If it's getting toward the end of the lesson and you need something to teach, go ahead and teach Stars as described below.

Stars are inserted here as a possibility because you do not want to make the horrible mistake of calling Half Sashay or Rollaway at this time. Teaching either of these calls before lesson 10 is definitely the wrong thing to do. Many helpers do not know the difference between Rollaway and Half Sashay, and when you call Half Sashay, some of them will Rollaway. Then your Student Dancers will try to Rollaway and end up everywhere because they'll do it without control and will not know where they're supposed to finish. Then you need to either ignore the sloppiness and accept it or spend way too much time trying to teach the correct version. Good luck trying to convince them how important it is to do both calls correctly since you will have already lost the battle.

Tell the Boys we are going to make a Right-Hand Star. Tell them to put their Right hands into the middle with fingers to the sky and touch hands, giving the shape of a teepee. Then tell them to walk forward around that hand touch, because Stars always turn. Tell them to Star Right around until they can get back Home and Square their Sets. You can then do it for the Girls. If you prefer to do Girls Star first, and then Boys second, that's okay also. For now, just send them Home after each Star.

Another call that is usually teach during lesson two (sometimes lesson one) is Ladies Center Men Sashay. From a Squared Set, have your Student Dancers Circle Left a few steps and then stop. Tell them you are going to call Ladies Center Men Sashay. Tell the Boys to look left, past their Corner to where the next Boy is standing and tell them they will finish there. The Girls will step forward three steps, tap their toe once, and then back up three steps. Then tell the Boys they have $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second to get around their Corner Girl to get to that spot, before the Lady backs up and steps on him! So, tell them to Circle Left, and then say Ladies Center Men Sashay. Call it 4 times this way (Squared Set Circle Left only). Then call Allemande Left, Right and Left Grand, and Promenade Home.

If you have new students for lesson two, you will probably need to treat lesson two somewhat as lesson one because of these first-time attendees. This may be all of the new material you can add. Many times, however, there are no new students or maybe a new one that catches on quickly, so then you could proceed with more material, as described below, starting with Square Thru.

Put your Student Dancers in a Squared Set and tell the Heads to Step into the Center. (It might be the Sides if you have helpers involved, depending on where the helpers are). You might first tell your Student Dancers they are going to learn Square Thru. Now tell the Heads to get a good look at their Corner, because that's where they will finish,

directly facing their Corner. Then tell the Head Boys they will be playing with their Partner and the Girl in front of them ONLY. You might tell them it will feel like a little Right and Left Grand in the middle, once they get moving at full speed.

Consider reminding them that a Pull By is joining the proper hand, and as they walk by each other they should drop hands when their joined hands pass their hips.

It seems best usually to walk them thru, step by step, the very first time. Have the Heads Right Pull By and make sure they're still facing the same wall and say that's Square Thru 1. Now say Face your Partner and Left Pull By and remain back-to-back (facing the Outside dancers) and you've completed Square Thru 2. (You can say Face the Outside dancers, but it's best to begin the knowledge of the need remain back-to-back with your last Pull By.) Now Face back into the middle of the Square and Right Pull By and you've completed Square Thru 3. Then have them Face their Partner and Left Pull By and Face their Corner and they've completed Square Thru 4!

Now call Allemande Left and You're Home and let's do it again. Take it slow. Help them thru every step. Sometimes it's best to just say Square your Sets and start again.

Then call Heads Square Thru and tell them to keep turning in, turning in, turning in. You may have a Student Dancer who continually turns Out and away at some point during Square Thru, usually after a Left Pull By. This is where a wireless mic headset is useful because all of your comments can still be heard, while you stand behind the problematic Student Dancer, stand behind them, put your hands gently on their shoulders, and say "May I drive?"

Finally, Face your Corner and you've finished.

Tell your Student Dancers to all do an Allemande Left and be Home. Then help them thru another Heads Square Thru. Then call Allemande Left and you're Home. Then you might consider asking the Sides if they were paying attention, because now it's their time to do it! Listen to the groans and giggles!

It's usually best to proceed during lesson two or three with Heads Square Thru and also Sides Square Thru, even if you only Dosado and Allemande Left and You're Home afterwards. It's very important to get people into the 2x4 choreo right away. It also seems best most times to go ahead and teach Star Thru (as described in the next chapter) and let them know they are now in Lines of 4 and make sure all hands are held. We will deal with this more in the next chapter.

Usually during the second lesson, or maybe the third, it's time to teach Your Partner and Swing Your Corner.

The Swing is best defined as having them Face their Original Partner. Then step forward and line up right hips, almost touching. Have the Boy hold his Left hand gently extended Left and have the Girl put her Right hand in his Left hand. The Boy's Right hand goes on her waist, and they walk forward around each other until they can Face back into the Center of the Square. Then have them Face their Corner, Swing their

Corner, then Promenade all the way around to the Boy's Home. They are now ready for a singing call. Have all the Girls return to their Original Partner.

Since you will probably be teaching them Swing your Corner about this time, it will be best to ensure your Student Dancers know that when a Boy Swings a Girl, she is his new Partner and they will Promenade to the Man's Home location.

So have your Student Dancers Face their Corner. Then call Swing your Corner and Promenade all the way around to the Man's Home location. Tell your Student Dancers that they are going to now do a singing call and this Swing your Corner and Promenade around to the Man's Home location will happen three more times during the singing call. If at this time the Ladies are not in their Home location, have the Ladies Chain Home or just go Home.

This first singing call's opener/middle break/closer should probably contain the following choreo:

- Circle Left
- Allemande Left
- Right and Left Grand
- Swing your Partner
- Promenade Home

The figure, twice for the Heads and twice for the Sides, should probably be:

- Heads (or Sides) Square Thru
- Swing Your Corner
- Promenade all the way around Home

If you need to take a little more time, call Dosado and then Swing your Corner and Promenade Home.

You should never teach or call Star Thru or Right and Left Thru from a Squared Set during the first 25 lessons. You will call Square Thru from a Squared Set only to have your Student Dancers finish Facing their Corner (for the first eight lessons or so).

Now let's get directly into Star Thru, Bend the Line and Right and Left Thru.

Chapter 4: Star Thru, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru

Star Thru should usually be taught during the same lesson you taught Square Thru. They don't need to have perfected Square Thru when you teach Star Thru. It helps your Student Dancers acquire the need to dance Square Thru accurately.

The above is completely true unless it turns out you've taught Square Thru very late in that lesson. If that's the case, continue with the material below in the next lesson. Remember that the preference is to teach Star Thru during the same lesson you teach Square Thru.

To keep the call separate and support rapid learning and accuracy, never teach Star Thru from a Squared Set. Star Thru is the reward for having learned and accurately danced Square Thru. So, Star Thru should only be taught after you've called Square Thru. They will be learning to do Star Thru while facing their Corner in a Corner Box.

It helps if you have a wireless mic so you can walk out on the floor and help them gently get thru Star Thru. Tell the Boys to gently raise their Right hand and offer it palm up to the Lady. Have her place her Left hand in his Right-hand palm down. Then have them gently raise their arms in an arch while the Girl walks under and the Boy walks forward around her till they both can turn and Face In as Partners. Then identify they are now in Lines of 4. You should probably make sure that their hands readjust to have the Boys Right palm up and the Girls Left palm down in his right hand. Also make sure the Centers join hands.

It's very advisable to tell your Student Dancers that if they have shoulder problems, they can just tap the hand rather than making a full arch and then walk by and Face into the Center in Lines as they finish the call.

After this try, it's best to go ahead and call Star Thru again and help them into the final position. The commonality is your Student Dancers will always be Facing In towards another dancer, before Star Thru and after Star Thru. The person who did the Star Thru with them will always be their new Partner. This is something you tell your Student Dancers right now. So, it's best to help them dance Star Thru four times consecutively so you can call Allemande Left and You're Home.

If it's getting late, save Bend the Line material for the next lesson. If not, go ahead and teach the following material right away.

After your Student Dancers are in a Corner Line, which means you called Heads or Sides Square Thru and then Star Thru, call Pass Thru. Then stop the music and tell them we are going to learn Bend the Line.

Hopefully, they are already in the habit of having the Centers join hands as soon as they have finished Pass Thru. This is highly important. Make sure you emphasize this, because those are the hands that break when it's time to Bend the Line. This helps

them learn Bend the Line and helps them retain and reestablish accurate positioning after Bend the Line.

Most times it's best to say that this might feel like an open book that you will be closing. You will retain your hand touch with your current Partner as the Centers drop hands and rejoin hands with the new Centers that will be standing next to them at the completion of Bend the Line. As you say Centers, walk thru most or all Squares and make sure the Centers let go. Then you help each Line individually by helping the Ends move forward to Face each other while retaining their current Partner with a hand touch. As you've done this with the third Line, the remainder of your Lines will already be Bending.

You should probably call Pass Thru and Bend the Line a total of four times, at least initially, returning your Student Dancers to the exact footprint Corner Line where they began this entire learning sequence.

Then you might consider calling Right and Left Thru (described below), then Pass Thru and Bend the Line 4 times, returning your Student Dancers to an Out of Sequence Corner Line. Then you can call Star Thru, Allemande Left, and You're Home.

It might often be too much new material for one lesson to do all of this stuff. So, Right and Left Thru might wait till the following lesson after you have reviewed Star Thru, Pass Thru and Bend the Line. If they're still in learning mode and want to learn more keep going!

Let's start this explanation with your Student Dancers in a Squared Set. Have the Heads Square Thru and then all Star Thru (Corner Line). Then tell your Student Dancers we are going to learn Right and Left Thru.

Tell them to give a Right Pull By with the dancer in front of them. You may need to review that a Pull By means a gentle handshake and when the hands pass the hips, the hand is released and you continue moving forward to be dancers Back to Back. Then have the Boys Courtesy Turn their Partner to return to Lines Facing In.

You should always refrain from calling Right and Left Thru and Star Thru from a Squared Set until at least lesson 25. Always do these calls initially from a Corner Line and then next from a Corner Box. A lesson or two later, you can probably mix the two with a sequence like the one below:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Right and Left Thru
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru

Bend the Line
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

This allows your Student Dancers to have four dancers doing Bend the Line as Centers twice and then have the other four Student Dancers be Centers for Bend the Line twice.

If you religiously call Star Thru and Right and Left Thru from Corner Lines and Corner Boxes only, and call Square Thru only 4 and only from a Squared Set, your Student Dancers will cement and perfect these calls very quickly and they will be very ready to learn Trade.

Do yourself and your Student Dancers a huge favor by not doing Sicilian Circles until at least lesson 25. At that time, Pass Thru and Move On To the Next will just seem like a fun variation. If you do it in the teaching process like some teaching guides have so wrongly recommended, Student Dancers actually never learn how to accurately Pass Thru because their minds seem to see it as the same thing as Move On To the Next. Accurate positioning efforts are destroyed, many times for the entire life of these Square Dancers, hindering their ability to learn further calls, including when some of these dancers later attempt to learn Advanced. It definitely hinders their ability to learn and accurately dance Plus. I've seen the horrible negative effects of calling Sicilian Circles many many times in my 52+ years of calling and teaching.

Now let's move on and teach Trade, Swing Thru and U-Turn Back.

Chapter 5: Trade, Swing Thru, U-Turn Back

Call Heads Square Thru 4, then Star Thru, then Pass Thru. Tell your Student Dancers we are now going to learn Trade. We can Trade with someone if one of your shoulders is pointed towards them. Tell your Student Dancers that when you call Girls Trade, they will walk forward, pass each other Right shoulders, take the other Girl's spot, and Face back In. Call it. Now Boys Trade (Boys walk forward, pass Right shoulders, take the other Boys spot, and Face back In).

Now call Pass Thru (don't worry about wrong shoulder passes yet). Repeat the above sequence. Your Student Dancers are now in the same Corner Line where they began. It's probably best to repeat this entire sequence, always returning your Student Dancers to a Corner Line Facing In. This allows Trade to be taught using the personal experience of all Student Dancers: Facing In.

It seems best to repeat this Trade teach sequence during the next lesson. (If at all possible, teach Trade during lesson three, or maybe even lesson two.) It also seems best to insert Pass Thru, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru. This will allow all of your Student Dancers to Bend the Line as Ends and also as Centers, so they all dance all positions.

Before we continue with this chapter, some context should be provided.

After you have taught Trade as stated above in this chapter, the next calls explained in this chapter can be taught in any order you feel is best. This is a very fluid time in a beginner's class, and you need this flexibility to provide the best Square Dance learning experience.

If you have not taught Right and Left Thru yet, from Corner Lines after the above Trade sequence you could call Pass Thru and then reteach (if necessary) Bend the Line as described in the prior chapter. Then from the Corner Line you could call Pass Thru then Bend the Line, then Star Thru, Allemande Left and Promenade Home.

Now it might be time to take a "brain break" for your Student Dancers, (sometimes during the same tip) and review/dance Right and Left Thru (from Corner Lines only) and Bend the Line. Also, you might throw in a little Allemande Left and Right and Left Grand.

Incredibly important concepts are being exercised here. Your dancers will develop the accuracy of turning half when you teach Right and Left Thru and Trade as described in this BTG. They will develop the skill to turn the correct direction every time on the Courtesy Turn. The coordination they learn by the Right Pull By and then joining Left Hands as the Right Hand of the Boy goes to the small of the back of the Girl and then beginning the turn left pays off later in ways you would never have previously imagined. This helps with teaching 8 Chain Thru, Spin the Top, Pass the Ocean, and a host of other calls.

This is why I am so adamantly opposed to using Wheel Around as a replacement for Right and Left Thru.

Also, it is generally advisable to introduce Right and Left Thru from an 8 Chain Thru Formation (usually a Corner Box, but not always), about lesson six, seven, or eight.

You still have called Square Thru only 4 and only Heads or Sides from a Squared Set.

About lesson four or five (sometimes lesson two or three) is probably the best to teach Centers Trade and Ends Trade, using this sequence:

Heads Square Thru 4
Star Thru (*Corner Line*)
Pass Thru
Ends Trade
Centers Trade
Pass Thru
Ends Trade
Centers Trade (*Corner Line*)

From the Corner Line described in this Trade teach, your getout should always be:

Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home (or Promenade Home)

After you teach Right and Left Thru from a Corner Box, you can then use Corner Box getouts, and other Corner Line getouts.

All of the above continues to utilize the only true muscle memory and social conditioning your new Student Dancers have brought with them to your beginner's class. That muscle memory concept is Facing In. They Face In to drive, they Face In to eat, and they Face In when they talk to you.

Up to this time, your Student Dancers have been learning "passing" Trades. Depending on their progress, you should usually begin teaching "hand/arm turn" Trades at lesson six, seven, or eight, although you may be able to teach this as early as lesson four.

Consider using this sequence:

Heads Square Thru 4
Star Thru (*Corner Line*)
Pass Thru
Girls Trade
Centers Trade
Boys Trade
Girls Trade

Centers Trade
Boys Trade
(*You're halfway there. You are a Pass Thru and U-Turn Back away from a Corner Line*)
Pass Thru
Boys Trade
Centers Trade
Boys Trade
Girls Trade
Centers Trade
Girls Trade (*Corner Line, exactly where they began*)

Now call your Student Dancers Home, then repeat the entire sequence beginning with Sides Square Thru 4 and Star Thru.

The next lesson after you take your Student Dancers thru the arm turn Trade teach, you will be reviewing it. After one review, try this:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru
Girls Trade
Centers Trade

Now say something like this:

"Now we are going to learn Swing Thru. When I call Swing Thru, I want same sexes to Trade around your Right-hand touch, then the new Centers will Trade around their Left-Hand touch. Ready? Swing Thru, same sexes Right hand Trade, then new Centers Left Hand Trade."

Now call Swing Thru 3 more times and help them do it. Keep using the terms Right Hand Trade and Centers Left Hand Trade. Don't say Turn Half Right and Turn Half Left until several lessons later, after you've taught Cast Off 3/4. This would be lesson 10 or later, usually.

This is about the time some helper may come up to you or maybe speak out loud and say something like "it's half by the Right then half by the Left". You should not say "no". You should say "not yet".

When your Student Dancers can comfortably dance all of the Trades previously described in this chapter, about lesson six or so, casually call your Student Dancers into a Corner Line, maybe like this:

Heads Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Then call Pass Thru

Stop the music and say, "We've done all kinds of Trades. Now we're going to learn Partner Trade. Who is your Partner right now? Your Partner right now is your original Corner". Then continue with, "When I call Partner Trade, you will drop hands, Face your Partner, walk by each other Right shoulders, and Face back In. Ready? Partner Trade, drop hands, Face each other, walk by, Face back In". Then call Partner Trade again as you continue to help them Face back In:

(So, after Heads Square Thru, Star Thru, Pass Thru, Partner Trade)

Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Now repeat, beginning with the Side Couples.

It is IMPERATIVE to have Student Dancers always "Face back In" at the completion of any new way you are teaching Trades that are passing Trades. This helps build confidence by utilizing previously learned muscle memory. It also helps build appreciation in the exactness of ending spot arrivals. At about lesson five or six or so, you need to help your Student Dancers become comfortable with Infacing and Outfacing 1/2 Sashayed Lines. You accomplish this by setting up the Corner Line, then call Pass Thru, then teach U-Turn Back:

Heads Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru

"Let's learn U-Turn Back. You, by yourself, will turn around to Face back In, by turning towards your Partner. Ready? U-Turn Back." If they initially turn around the wrong way (away from their Partner), don't worry about it. Wait until they've done it a few times. Then get them turning the correct direction.

Don't worry at this time about doing a U-turn back in the flow of the prior call, like after a recycle or a Right and Left Thru. No caller in their right mind actually calls this type of material very often.

Now call Pass Thru and have your Student Dancers identify who their current Partner is. "Boys, she's on your Left". Then call Partner Trade. Help them. If they stumble, call Ends Face In, Square Your Sets at Home. Then call the sequence again. Help them. (They're still 1/2 Sashayed). Then call:

Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Circle left
Allemande Left
Promenade Home

This is where you begin practicing Bend the Line from 1/2 Sashayed Outfacing Lines. For example, you might call:

Heads Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Circle Left
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
Promenade Home

Right and Left Grand might be a good Student Dancer "“brain break”" right here right now.

It is imperative you take your Student Dancers thru these Trade teaches exactly as described in this chapter. No exceptions. Words have been chosen very carefully. The sequence of events has been chosen so each Trade teach strategically follows the Trade teach before it, and smoothly flows into the Trade teach that follows it. It helps build Student Dancer confidence quickly and strongly. It omits words that can cause Student Dancer insecurity and confusion. It is also the beginning of your Student Dancers learning the incredibly important concept of Square Awareness.

For the first 10 lessons or so, every passing Trade teach must absolutely have the Student Dancers doing this Trade action finish their dance action Facing back In, in some kind of shoulder-to-shoulder four-person Line. No exceptions. Variations will be added later.

One of the worst things you can tell your Student Dancers is that a Partner Trade is a California Twirl with no hands.

The entire Trade teach theory presented in this chapter has a rudimentary core premise that we should not "teach", we should "entice to learn". This requires us Square Dance instructors to instill in our Student Dancers the "need to know". Every step your Student Dancers take in learning Trade needs to work towards creating the "need to know". The Trade teach methods described in this chapter do exactly this. At lesson 25 or higher, when you finally teach Dive Thru, the California Twirl can be described quickly as a Partner Trade with an arch. Of course, make the arch optional because of potential shoulder problems with some Student Dancers.

If it seems like this whole chapter is sort of jumping around, that's because this early in beginner's class it oft times seems like it's working that way. Make sure you teach your initial Trades to have everyone Facing In after the Trade action. Just teach each call as described, and it may not matter exactly what order in which you teach them in.

Chapter 6: Grand Square, Wheel and Deal

During this early time of a beginner's class, your Student Dancers are in a very critical stage of learning. This is the time when their minds are the most open, eager and ready to learn. It is your best opportunity to impress on them (by what you call and how you teach) how important accurate fractional turning will be to their Square Dance enjoyment. It is during this time frame when your Student Dancers will learn the four foundational calls. They are Trade (as already explained in this BTG), Circulate, Run, and Cast Off (Circulate, Run and Cast Off have not been taught yet).

Grand Square, Wheel and Deal, and Separate (Separate is in the next chapter) are individual calls that do not depend upon each other. Individually, these three calls will help you reinforce the need for accurate fractional turning and finishing spot arrival. The teaching of these three calls will be inserted during the teaching of the four foundational calls when Student Dancer "brain breaks" seem to be required.

Grand Square is a call that can be taught any time from lesson four thru lesson 10 or so. It's fairly complicated, even though the muscle memory and social conditioning of constantly Facing In towards another dancer should be present but doesn't seem to obviously help right away.

It seems helpful for most of your Student Dancers if you tell the Boys they will always be Facing either the Girl directly across the Square from them or their original Partner. Tell them they will never be Facing Out and they will always be Facing one of these two dancers. You can be slightly humorous by saying you don't get to play with anyone else!

It's also best to describe Grand Square as take three steps and Face In, take three steps and Face In, take three steps and Face In, take three steps and touch. Then say this is when we Reverse and take three steps and Face In, take three steps and Face In, take three steps and Face In, take three steps and Face In, take three steps and YOU'RE HOME!

It's best to begin, it seems, with Sides Face Grand Square. Using the walk three steps and turn method. You can define "turn" in this concept as turning one quarter to face another dancer, either their Original Partner or their Original Opposite.

You should probably say that if they are nose to nose with a dancer, they will back up, and if they are away from the dancer they have turned to face, they take 3 steps forward towards them. Tell the Heads on the word "go" they will step forward three steps into the Center and tell the Sides on the word "go" they will back up three steps away from each other. Say "Go", then have all dancers turn and Face the other of the two dancers you had them identify initially.

After the walk thru, try calling it slowly, still with no music playing. You may have someone who is still having problems. At this time, it will probably seem best for you to step into the Square and physically walk the little square one or two of the dancers will

be tracing out on the dance floor when they dance Grand Square. Remind them they will be making their own little box around that little square.

At some point very soon you will want to turn the patter music back on and tell them now we're going to practice Grand Square. Then call Sides Face and wait for them to Face. Then say Grand Square and count walk two three and turn (in four beats), pause a little, walk two three and turn, pause a little, walk two three and turn, pause a little, walk two three (in three beats) and now we are going to Reverse. Ready? Reverse! Help them as needed, take extra beats as needed. Walk two three and turn, etc.

The first lesson you teach Grand Square should be during your patter calling. Then review it the next lesson. The lesson after that, tell them you're going to do it during a singing call so you can sing the lyrics of a song. After that, use Grand Square only in singing calls so it becomes a reward for learning Grand Square.

Grand Square should be taught when you have enough time to teach it and when your Student Dancers seem to need a new and different dance learning experience. But remember, no earlier than lesson four.

Grand Square may be taught either before or after Wheel and Deal. This should be based on how your Student Dancers are reacting. If they seem a bit overloaded, teach Grand Square first. If they seem like they're gung-ho, do Wheel and Deal and then later teach Grand Square.

Wheel and Deal should always be taught from Corner Lines. Call Pass Thru and then teach Wheel and Deal. No exceptions. Teaching from Corner Lines continually emphasizes that your Partner is whoever your current Partner is. Wheel and Deal from 2 Faced Lines should wait for another 15 lessons or so for you teach it.

Call this:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru

Now say we are going to learn Wheel and Deal. Tell your Student Dancers they will begin like Bend the Line but will continue turning forward as a Couple to finish as one Couple in front of the other, having turned exactly half to face the wall behind them. You can also say that in this case the Couple going in front will be directly facing a Couple that is coming into the Center from the other Line in their square. Also tell them the Couple with the Right Hand free will go in front and the other Couple will go behind them. Remember to say that everyone will finish facing the wall that is now behind them while retaining their current Partner. You will need to help one Line get there. Then you'll help a second Line, and maybe a third get there and the others will start to figure it out and do it on their own. Then check to make sure the Right-Hand Couple went in front of the Left-Hand Couple.

Then tell them when you say Double Pass Thru, they will walk forward passing two people (with right shoulders) while retaining their same facing direction and their current Partner. This should be self-explanatory and not require a formal teach, but more a helpful description.

So, the entire sequence you will call has now progressed like this:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4
Star Thru
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru

Now teach First Couple Go Left Next Couple Go Right. Tell them they will keep the same Partner and finish in Lines Facing In, with an exact half turn as a Couple. This should also appear to be so logical to your Student Dancers they should have no problem dancing this choreo. They will be facing back in, standing in the all familiar Corner Lines. Make sure they all get there. Your getout would then be this:

Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

If you wish to repeat the Wheel and Deal/ Double Pass Thru sequence, now call this:

Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple Go Left Next Couple Go Right (*Corner Line*)

You might consider setting up the whole thing up again and call it all the way thru except when they have finished Double Pass Thru, call this:

First Couple Go Right Next Couple Go Left
Star Thru
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

The Corner Line Facing Out Wheel and Deal is the only way your Student Dancers should see Wheel and Deal for the next 10 to 15 lessons. Let them think they thoroughly know Wheel and Deal, so their minds feel accomplishment and they're ready to learn more. You may have helpers who want you to call a club level tip during the beginner's class. It's also best if you completely avoid using 2 Faced Line Wheel and Deal during helper club level tips.

The next two sequences should only be called several lessons later, after your Student Dancers have mastered Pass the Ocean from Standard Couples and also Half Sashayed Couples: It should also seem like the correct time to have your Student Dancers, and your helpers all learn a new way Wheel and Deal may be utilized.

Heads Square Thru 4 as Sides Half Sashay

Or:

Sides Square Thru 4 as Heads Half Sashay

Then call (after they have learned Circulate):

Pass the Ocean
Boys Run
Wheel and Deal
Boys Circulate
Girls Trade
Bend the Line
Pass the Ocean
Boys Run
Promenade Home

Much later (when you are calling Plus), after Wheel and Deal, call this instead:

Ferris Wheel
Dixie Grand
Allemande Left
Bow to the Partner you Stirred the Bucket

Now let's repeat the above sequence, but this time instead of saying Boys Run we will say Girls U-turn Back:

Heads Square Thru 4 as Sides Half Sashay

Or:

Sides Square Thru 4 as Heads Half Sashay

Then call:

Pass the Ocean
Girls U-Turn Back
Wheel and Deal

Now you have several options available to you. Some of them are:

Ferris Wheel
Centers Square Thru 3
Allemande Left
Bow to the Partner you've Stirred the Bucket

Or:

Girls Circulate
Boys Trade
Promenade Home

Or:

Boys Trade
Bend the Line and Flutterwheel
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Dixie Grand
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Boys Trade
Bend the Line and Flutterwheel
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
Leaders Trade
Centers Face In and Back Out
You're Home

Or you can start them at Home and call:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4
Right and Left Thru
Outsides Half Sashay
Pass the Ocean
Boys Run
Wheel and Deal
Ferris Wheel
Centers Square Thru 3
Allemande Left
Promenade Home Four steps or Right and Left Grand and you've Stirred the Bucket

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4
Right and Left Thru
Outsides Half Sashay
Pass the Ocean
Boys Run
Wheel and Deal
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
Partner Trade (*everyone*)
Centers Pass Thru
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand but on the 3rd Hand you're Home

Any Wheel and Deal that does not finish in a Double Pass Thru formation or an Eight Chain formation should be considered choreo for further workshopping and learning later in the class. As such, when the moment feels right, say "Now we are going to learn how to do Wheel and Deal Twice!".

Heads or Sides Square Thru 2
Right and Left Thru
Outsides Half Sashay
Pass the Ocean
Boys Run
Wheel and Deal (*into 2 Faced Lines*)
Wheel and Deal (*Facing Couples*)

Now call:

Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You've Stirred the Bucket

Or:

Pass Thru

Trade By

Allemande Left

Right and Left Grand 7 hands and on the 7th hand you've Stirred the Bucket

It's good to note a couple things right now regarding Wheel and Deal. It always seems good to tell your Student Dancers that Wheel and Deal makes a Line of four dancers into a Box of four dancers. In this case, one Couple goes in front of the other, and the Couple going in front is the one that has the Right Hand free while still standing in the Line.

It is also horribly counterproductive to say that the Right-Hand Couple goes in the Middle and the Left-Hand Couple goes behind them on the Outside. As you can see by the few Extended Application sequences provided in this chapter, this description is not always true. You never want to teach your Student Dancers something that is sometimes true and sometimes not. This creates Student Dancer confusion and encourages Student Dancer dropouts. It also encourages some dancers to think you don't know what you are doing.

Later on, you will see that a 2 Faced Line Wheel and Deal is supported by the Line into a Box rule. It should be really easy to say that we did Wheel and Deal into a leader follower Box earlier, and at this time we're going to change your 2 Faced Line into a Facing Box.

You most probably have a helper or two, at some point early in the Square Dance lessons speak up and say something that will seem contrary to your method of teaching, or they think they are providing helpful information. For example, a helper dancer may say "half right half left" when doing Swing Thru. In a case like this, it's usually best to never say "NO" instead, it's usually best to say, "not yet". Or if a helper Boy says, "I take my Girl in the middle and he takes his Girl behind me" or something similar for Wheel and Deal, again it's best to not say "NO", you might consider saying "that's not always true".

Chapter 7: Separate

Separate should almost always be taught as an entire call family. This can be done before or after Grand Square and/or Wheel and Deal, depending on what you think is best for your Student Dancers at that point in time. It can also be taught throughout the next two or three lessons. Most likely, your helpers will be just as green as your Student Dancers when you begin to teach Separate this way.

We are going to make sure you teach Separate in a way that your helpers do not always dance it, so they start paying attention immediately. After all the helper dancers and Student Dancers are completely warmed up, and maybe you have taught or reviewed other calls, get them Home and tell your Student Dancers we are going to learn Separate.

Stop the music and say something like "Now we are going to learn Separate. When I call Heads Separate, the Heads will turn and stand back-to-back and then begin walking forward around the outside until they can directly face the dancer coming towards them". Now call it:

Heads Separate

Then call:

Centers Square Thru 3
Outsides Star Thru
Pass Thru
Centers Square Thru 3
Outsides Partner Trade
Allemande Left
You're Home

Now explain that if you had said Heads Separate Around One to a Line, they should now Face In behind the Sides and Step Forward between them as the Sides slide apart to let them in. Call this:

Heads Separate Around One to a Line

The resultant formation is Corner Lines. So now call:

Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or maybe call:

Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple Go Left Next Couple Go Right
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Now repeat it for the Sides, or maybe do the next variation beginning with Sides, like this:

Sides Separate (*and Face the dancer coming toward you on the outside*) and then Star Thru
Centers Square Thru 3 and Face your Corner
Dosado
Star Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

(Please note the use of Square Thru other than four in the above sequences. Your Student Dancers are far enough along in their lessons now to start using these. You can also begin to substitute Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 with Heads or Sides Promenade Half and come Down the Middle and Square Thru 2 to Face your Corner. Just make sure you always have them Face their Corner as they finish Square Thru of any number). This should work well at this point in your beginner's class progress. Other endings for Square Thru any number, such as Lines Facing Out, will come much later.

You've done Separate Around One to a Line, so now let's do Separate Around 2 to a Line.

Tell your Student Dancers you are going to call Separate Around 2 to a Line, then call it, something like this:

Heads Separate Around 2 to a Line (*do NOT say up to the middle and back*)
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Star Thru
Centers Pass Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Right and Left Grand
Promenade Home

(This may be the time for the occasional Allemande Left, Right and Left Grand, because right now may be the time for the occasional wind-in-the-face-brain-break Student Dancers sometimes need. Once they've completed their lessons and have been actively Square Dancing, they will most likely never again need this type of "brain break". If you personally need this type of "brain break" as a Square Dance Caller, maybe you need to do more homework. The Square Dancers who have been actively Square Dancing for a while seem to only need a two beat semi-deep breath while in Corner or Partner Lines while their mind says, "so far, so good".)

You should definitely add Separate (without saying Heads or Sides Pass Thru) to your permanent choreography.

Now let's teach Separate after Heads or Sides Pass Thru. Make sure you remind your Student Dancers that when they are going Around One or going Around Two that they count only the stationary people, not the person coming towards them on the outside. Try to not use the word "active" because it does not exist in the definitions, and it can lead to some serious misunderstandings later.

Here is a progression of sequences you can call so you do not need to stop them for a formal teach:

Heads or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around 2 and, come down the middle and Square Thru 4
Dosado
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around One, come into the Middle and Square Thru 3
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around One to a Line (*do NOT say up to the middle and back*)
Star Thru
Double Pass Thru
Partner Trade (*make sure all dancers do it; all dancers CAN definitionally do it from that footprint so all dancers do it; this might take a reminder*)
Centers Pass Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

The next sequence will begin the same as the prior sequence, but provides a different teaching opportunity:

Heds or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around One to a Line (*do NOT say up to the middle and back*)
Star Thru
Double Pass Thru
Face In
Centers Right and Left Thru
Ends Star Thru
You're Home

You may need to remind your Student Dancers, particularly the Ends, that Face In is a call that defines that you turn One Quarter, one wall, 90° in the direction of the Center of the Square. In this case, this leaves us in Lines of four Facing In. Hopefully, you taught this concept when you taught Grand Square.

Here is some more choreo using Separate:

Heds or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around 2 to a Line
Circle Left
Boys Star Right
Allemande Left your Corner
Promenade Home

Heds or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around 2 to a Line
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Now you should observe the Wheel and Deal zero that is contained within the next sequence, also helping your Student Dancers to learn to dance several calls consecutively while being in a Half-Sashayed partnership:

Heds or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around 2 to a Line
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple Go Left Next Couple Go Right
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back
Star Thru
Allemande Left and You're Home

Now, if you want to have the above the effect and also practice Partner Trade from Half-Sashayed partnerships:

Heads or Sides Pass Thru
Separate Around 2 to a Line
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple Go Right Next Couple Go Left
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Face your (*current*) Partner
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

Or, after Partner Trade in the above sequence:

Circle Left till you get Home

The above are sequences can go into your permanent choreo toolbox to sprinkle into all of your future dances, a little bit at a time. This should make your calling more interesting than callers who do not have this material in their wheelhouse. I am not suggesting you do all of these Separate sequences in your initial efforts to teach Separate. They should be sprinkled into your calling during your beginner's class as it progresses. Just make sure you keep "sprinkling" with slightly different Separate sequences each time.

Chapter 8: Run

Run is one of the four foundational calls (Trade, Run, Circulate, Cast Off). It should be initially taught and called from Corner Lines facing Out. This method has the dancer doing the turning part of the Run action always finish Facing In. Call Heads or Sides Square Thru 4, Star Thru, then Pass Thru. Then stop the music, walk up to one of the End Boys, and as you point to his finishing position, say something like:

"Now I'm going to call Boys Run. Boys, you will do your part of a Partner Trade. You will take a forward step to turn and finish in your Partner's position Facing In. Girls as he does this you will slide over to your Partners position as he vacates it and remain Facing Out". Then call it:

Boys Run

Make sure all the Boys are Facing In and all the Girls are Facing Out. Now explain Girls Run line this:

"Now I'm going to call Girls Run. Girls, you will do your part of a Partner Trade. You will take a forward step to turn and finish in your Partner's position Facing In. Boys as she does this you will slide over to your Partners position as she vacates it and remain Facing In". Then call it:

Girls Run

The dancers are now in Out of Sequence Half Sashayed Corner Lines. Do not tell your dancers this. Just call Pass Thru and don't pay too much attention if they pass the wrong shoulder. Now say:

"Boys, I'm going to call Boys Run. She's on your Left this time. Just take a forward step and turn to Face In as you take her position, as she slides over into your spot and stays Facing Out. Now call it:

Boys Run (*do NOT say Left*)

"Now Girls, it's your turn. You will take his spot and Face back In while he slides over to take your spot and remains Facing In. Ready? "

Girls Run (*do NOT say Left*)

The resulting formation is the all familiar Corner Lines. You can now call Pass Thru and repeat the sequence or call Pass Thru and have the Girls Run first each time. This allows the first Run to be a Run Left and also allows the Girls to dance the slide over part and remain Facing In as the Boys do the slide over part and remain Facing Out. This allows all dancers to do all parts.

You should never again have the problem of having the Girls stand still as the Boys Run all the way around the Girls, leaving the dancers in four Lines of two dancers each and the squares enlarged instead of nice compact 2 Faced Lines with proper hand touches.

This is enough for your initial teach of Run, and also for your review of it during the next two lessons. It's probably not singing call choreo yet. As Run is further utilized for greater choreo variations later on, Run (as it will be utilized at that time) will be listed again in the teaching order with explanations of how to use it to set up other choreo, such as Ocean Waves for a Swing Thru or Column Circulates (Right or Left Handed) without the need to teach Touch 1/4 which is deceptively difficult.

Chapter 9: Circulate (Facing and Passing)

It may seem a little early to teach Circulate, but in most situations, it will be just right. You've now been entertaining your Student Dancers and helpers with choreo involving Wheel and Deal, the many variations of Separate, Grand Square, and the Trade and Run choreo you've recently taught them. They're probably ready right now for the exciting mind expanding choreo that Circulate can provide.

As part of the current dance experience they are enjoying, set them up normally in normal Corner Lines by first calling them into a Squared Set and then call:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4
Star Thru

Now stop the music and say something like "Now we are going to learn Circulate. When I call Ends Circulate, you will Dance it like a Pass Thru and connect on the End of the Line in front of you and remain Facing Out. Now let's do it. Ends Circulate".

Make sure all the Ends have now moved forward to the next End position, and you now have Inverted Lines, Ends Facing Out and Centers Facing In.

Now tell them when you call Ends Circulate again, they will walk forward around the Outside passing each other Right shoulders to finish on the other End of the Line, just like Ends Trade to finish Facing In. Then call Ends Circulate.

Now call Ends Circulate again and remind them it's just like a Pass Thru to hook on the End of the Line Facing Out.

Now call Ends Circulate one more time and remind them it's just like an Ends Trade to the other End to Face In.

Tell them they have now Circulated four times. The dancers are right back where they started, in Corner Lines. If it seems your Student Dancers need a brief break, call them Home, then call them back into the same Corner Lines. Then stop the music and say something like this:

"Now I'm going to call Centers Circulate. Centers, your first Circulate will be like a Pass Thru, making you Centers of the Line in front of you, Facing Out. Ends remain Facing In. Here we go! Centers Circulate."

Then say something like "Centers, your next Circulate will be like a Trade. You will drop hands, face each other, pass by each other Right shoulders and Face back In. Okay, Centers Circulate."

Now say, "Now Centers, just like a Pass Thru, Centers Circulate. Then call Centers Circulate one more time and remind them it's just like a Trade."

Tell them they've now danced Circulate four times. They are right back where they started, in Corner Lines.

Hopefully, you got all of the above teaching and choreo completed in one tip. If not, start it up again the next tip and finish the job. Because now you're going to explain something that will be the best way you have ever taught Circulate.

If you have not taught U-Turn Back yet, now will be the time (see chapter 5 for the U-Turn Back teach). You might even set them up in Corner Lines this way this time:

Holds or Sides Promenade Halfway
Come down the middle and Square Thru 2 to Face your Corner and
Star Thru (*it's still a little soon for Slide Thru*)

Now have the Girls do a U-Turn Back, creating Parallel Ocean Waves. This is actually a good time to call U-Turn Back because you'll be creating an immediate "need to know" in their minds.

Then explain something like this to your Student Dancers: "We have been dancing Passing Circulates. Now we are going to dance Following Circulates."

This will probably be a new concept for your helpers. Remember, you want to befriend your helpers, not alienate them.

Tell the End Boys that Ends Circulate will take them straight across to the other Ocean Wave to hook on and remain Facing Out, and the End Girls will go forward to the other End and hook on and Face In. Then call Ends Circulate. Now remind the End Boys that they are currently Facing Out so when you call Ends Circulate again, they will walk forward around the outside to hook on the other End and Face In, as the End Girls walk straight across and hook on the End of the other Ocean Wave and remain Facing Out.

Then call Ends Circulate. Now use a similar explanation and tell the Centers to Circulate, then Circulate again. After that, explain to all that you are now going to say All 8 Circulate and the Ends will do an Ends Circulate and the Centers do a Centers Circulate. Ready, All 8 Circulate. Then call All 8 Circulate again. Now call Girls U-Turn Back and everyone is now in Corner Lines.

Or, instead of Girls U-Turn Back that finishes the above sequence, you could call this instead:

Boys U-Turn Back
Bend the Line (*remember they are Half Sashayed*)
Circle Left
Allemande Left
Promenade Home

At some point very soon after learning all of the above, you might consider calling this sequence:

Heads Promenade Halfway
Come Down the Middle and Square Thru 2 (*Corner Box*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Girls U-Turn Back
Centers Trade
Swing Thru (*Right Hand Trade then Centers Left Hand Trade*)
All 8 Circulate
All 8 Circulate

After calling the above, you then have the following options:

Girls U-Turn Back
Right and Left Thru (*Corner Lines*)

Or:

Girls Run
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back (*Corner Lines*)

Or:

Girls Run
Pass Thru
Partner Trade (*it's Half Sashayed*)
Ends Face In and Centers Back Up
You're Home

Or:

Girls U-Turn Back
Star Thru (*Corner Box*)
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Girls U-Turn Back
Pass Thru
Bend the Line (*Corner Lines, Inverted and Rotated*)
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Girls U-Turn Back
Pass Thru
Bend the Line (*Corner Lines, Inverted and Rotated*)
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple Go Left Next Couple Go Right (*Zero, same Corner Lines*)
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Centers Trade
Swing Thru (*Right Hand Trade then Centers Left Hand Trade*)
Girls U-Turn Back (*Corner Lines*)
Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

Or (*after they've learned Fold [see chapter 10 for Fold teach]*):

Girls Fold
Double Pass Thru
Face Right
Bend the Line (*Corner Lines*)
Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
You're Home

Or:

Girls Fold
Double Pass Thru
Face Left
Bend the Line
Circle Left
Allemande Left
Promenade Home

Or (*after they've learned Scoot Back*):

Scoot Back
Boys Fold
Double Pass Thru
Face Left
Bend the line (*Corner Lines*)
Square Thru 3 to Lines Facing Out
Bend the Line
Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
You're Home

As a chapter ending insert, it's good to look at your choreo and limit your calling of the horribly overused sequence of Touch 1/4 followed by Scoot Back and then Boys Run. You can use any of the sequences below to replace that sequence and get the same result.

To use any of the three sequences below and finish in Corner Lines you need to start every sequence in a Corner Box.

Touch 1/4
Girls Fold
Double Pass Thru
Face Right
Bend the Line
Right and Left Thru (*Corner Lines*)

Touch 1/4
Girls Run
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back
Right and Left Thru (*Corner Lines*)

Touch 1/4
Split Circulate
Boys Run
Reverse Flutter
Right and Left Thru (*Corner Lines*)

The above sequences are the equivalent of calling Star Thru.

I hope this inspires you to search for more options. I also hope you notice that the horribly overused sequence referenced above is not worth mentioning more than once.

Chapter 10: Fold

Fold might seem like it is a "throw-in" call that can be tossed in just about anywhere anytime. While this might be true, Fold is a call that has incredible value in the learning experience for your Student Dancers and also for greatly expanding your own personal choreo toolbox.

Fold is actually best presented as further learning after having learned Run. Run is a call where all dancers move into their Partner's spot with one turning and one not. Fold is a call where the designated dancers take a forward step and turn to Face the position occupied by their Partner standing next to them. The non-designated dancers do not move (although they may move afterwards bringing the Square closer together due to a concept entitled "breathing square").

It's best to teach and call Fold in a way where "breathing square" will not be involved or ignored. "Breathing square" happens when a call is finished, and any two dancers have their shoulder pointed towards another dancer's shoulder and the space between them is not definitionally preserved. These dancers then slide together and touch hands without changing their facing direction. As an example, space preserving happens when Points of Diamonds are established, but that's a subject for a later chapter.

We are still early enough in the progress of Student Dancers that we need to be teaching Fold from Corner Lines Facing Out, set up as follows:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Star Thru
Pass Thru

This is where you differentiate in their minds between Run and Fold. Don't say this out loud.

Tell your Student Dancers you are going to call Ends Fold. The Centers will remain where they are as the Ends take a Forward step and Turn to Face their Partner's position. In this case, they will be directly Facing their prior Partner. Now here is the entire sequence that you can call, and return them to Infacing Corner Lines:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Star Thru
Pass Thru
Ends Fold
Star Thru
Partner Trade
Right and Left Thru (*Corner Lines*)

Or, in the above sequence you could skip the final Right and Left Thru and call:

Star Thru
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

Since you have taught your Student Dancers Half Sashay, now is your opportunity to show them how valuable it is that they have learned this call:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Star Thru
Right and Left Thru
Half Sashay
Pass Thru
Ends Fold
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)

Of course, you could now call:

Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Another variation would be to insert the following either before or after the Right and Left Thru above:

Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Bend the Line

Now finish the above sequence with the included final Star Thru and then call:

Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

At this point, this is all you need to do to introduce Fold to your Student Dancers.

You should mostly be calling every or almost every sequence provided in this teaching guide at almost every lesson for the next eight lessons or so. After that, it's not quite so imperative to call every sequence every lesson. They will already have these positions and calls in their minds and will also understand the importance of accurate positioning before, during, and after dancing each call.

Way too many dancers believe that Fold sometimes needs to be directed as "in front of" or "behind". This is an incorrect assumption that is unfortunately due to insufficient teaching. Below is a sequence I believe should be used about four lessons after you've taught Cloverleaf and Zoom:

Heds or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Star Thru
Right and Left Thru
Ends Pass Thru
Centers Star Thru
Ends Fold (*look in their ears*)
Centers Cloverleaf and be Home
New Centers Star Thru and Partner Trade
You're Home

When you are calling a dance, it is very good to tell the Centers to back up after the above sequence is completed. This is because they will all step back on the same beat and they sense the unity. This is very positive in your search for excellence. In class, it's best to not tell them and maybe later sometime tell them that when there's no reason to remain in the Center, they back up into a Squared Set. This is definitional.

We will put Fold in more choreo later after teaching Cloverleaf and Zoom.

The concept of "breathing square" was discussed earlier in this chapter and the need for it avoided by the examples provided.

It was not discussed about what ignoring this concept means.

Ignoring the concept of "breathing square" happens when a caller calls something like the following choreo example:

Swing Thru Double
Girls Run
Tag the Line

Do the dancers slide together and touch hands when Tag the Line is completed as they definitionally should? Generally speaking, no. This is almost always the fault of insufficient teaching. The vast majority of callers always tell the dancers to Face Right or Left to establish 2 Faced Lines. While this is perfectly acceptable in creating a smooth dancing experience, the mistake most callers make is to call this type of choreo this way early in the beginner's class. They also incorrectly think that calling Cloverleaf in this situation fixes the problem when it actually greatly increases the difficulty and confusion factor if the dancers do not touch hands first. If the dancers do not touch hands, the completed formation after Tag the Line is eight Lines or Columns of one person each. How do they Cloverleaf away from someone when they might not know who that someone is?

We'll deal with this more later after we teach Tag the Line, but the real fix for this situation is to call Leaders Partner Trade.

Fold will be used more in the next chapter in sequences with Cast Off.

Chapter 11: Centers In and Cast Off

The traditional way of teaching Centers In and Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ was firmly entrenched in Square Dancing when I began dancing in 1969. In today's greatly refined choreo world, it simply does not serve the purpose of training Student Dancers in a way that helps to promote their Square Dance skills and enhance other calls for a fully successful Square Dance experience.

We will start our teaching of Centers In with the Student Dancers and helpers in a Corner Box. You should consider saying something like this:

"Now we are going to learn Centers In. I will probably call Put Centers In. As the name implies, Centers squeeze in between the dancers in front of you and they will slide apart and let you in."

For your information only, the ending result is an Inverted Line with Ends Facing In and Centers Facing Out. This will be a brand-new position for most of your helpers, so they will be learning also. The good part of this is that your initial teach of Cast Off will have all dancers walking forward. You will also be taking advantage of the inherent secure feeling of Facing In.

The concept of Cast Off now needs to educate the dancers that the wall they are facing is the zero wall. Tell them the term Cast Off will be followed by a fraction that tells them how far to turn forward around their current handhold with their current Partner. Tell them to Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$. Then tell them to Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$ again.

On the first teach, it's time to get them out. Once you get them out and get them home, start with a side couples and do the whole thing again the same way.

Here is the formula to create your own choreo using Centers In from a Corner Box and how to combine Cast Off with Circulate. This is the opportunity to let them know how important Circulate is because of its new application. Remember, it's never best to teach. It's always best to ignite the passion and desire to learn.

Here is the formula to create choreo using Cast off and Circulate:

1. From a Corner Box Put Centers In
2. Cast Off any fraction
3. All 8 Circulate
4. Cast Off any fraction
5. All 8 Circulate
6. Outfacers either U-Turn Back or Run (*your choice*)
- 7a. If they are Half Sashayed, Pass Thru and U-Turn Back
- 7b. If they are standard, Right and Left Thru
8. Star Thru (*Corner Box*)

- 9a. If the #1 Boy/Girl are on the near side of the Square, Allemande Left and you're Home
- 9b. If the #1 Boy/Girl are on the far side of the Square, Allemande Left then Right and Left Grand and you're Home

Your Student Dancers will have already learned Facing Circulates so now is the time where they can see a different application of these learned Circulates. The formula above and all the different variations it can provide should be added to your choreo toolbox for sporadic use at all your future dances. It will add intrigue and excitement for the different type of material you can provide that everyone can dance that not many other callers can provide.

The formula starts you in a Corner Box (after Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent) and returns you to a Corner Box and then have the dancers back Home. Below are a few examples created using the above formula:

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
 Put Centers In
 Cast Off 3/4
 All 8 Circulate
 Cast Off 3/4
 All 8 Circulate
 Centers U-Turn Back
 Right and Left Thru
 Star Thru
 Allemande Left
 Right and Left Grand
 You're Home

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
 Put Centers In
 Cast Off 1/2
 All 8 Circulate
 Cast Off 1/2
 All 8 Circulate
 Right and Left Thru
 Star Thru
 Allemande Left
 You're Home

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
 Put Centers In
 Cast Off 1/4
 All 8 Circulate
 Cast Off 1/4
 All 8 Circulate
 Centers U-Turn Back
 Right and Left Thru

Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Put Centers In
Cast Off 3/4
All 8 Circulate
Cast Off 1/2
All 8 Circulate
Ends U-Turn Back
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Put Centers In
Cast Off 1/2
All 8 Circulate
Cast Off 3/4
All 8 Circulate
Ends Run (*a formula variation*)
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads or Sides Square Thru 4 or the equivalent
Put Centers In
Cast Off 3/4
All 8 Circulate
Cast Off 1/4
All 8 Circulate
Centers Run (*a formula variation*)
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

I think you get the idea. As you can see in the above two sequences, when it's time to go for the get out (which is after the final All 8 Circulate and then either Ends or Centers Run), it's a good variation to utilize if it gives you standard couples facing in.

Consider developing sequences using the formula that will allow you to workshop Circulates in a way that will help your Student Dancers become confident, happy, successful, long-term Square Dancers. If you want the same dancers facing in for both Circulates, once as an End and once as a Center, choose fractions that accomplish this.

If you want to have them Circulate as an End one time and Circulate as an End the other time, once facing in and once facing out, choose fractions that accomplish this.

Occasionally, you may have the difficult situation of being forced to teach in a building that is five-sided or circular. You might even be teaching outside with no references for facing the wall behind you. If you tell one of your Student Dancers that is confused to turn and face towards the tennis courts, make sure there's not tennis courts in three of the four directions they can look!

The basic concept of dealing with this situation is having them do a Turning Trade $1 \frac{1}{2}$ times. You can also tell them that they're normal Turning Trade is actually a Half Turn when they change places. Then they actually turn halfway toward completing another Trade with the same dancer, making it a $\frac{3}{4}$ turn when you call Cast Off $\frac{3}{4}$. They touch hands in Lines before and afterwards anyway, so this should be an easily absorbable concept for your Student Dancers when learning in a difficult situation as described in the above paragraph.

It's worth noting at this time that you have now completed your teaching of the four foundational calls. As a reminder, they are Trade, Run, Circulate, and Cast Off. Once these calls have been mastered by your Student Dancers, the order in which you teach the remaining calls and positions becomes more variable. Up to this point, you have hopefully been adhering specifically to every call being taught the way it is described in this guide and also in the order as presented in the BTG Teaching Order.

If you have, you are probably now noticing the confidence and excitement and passion your Student Dancers have developed. Hopefully, this will translate into them being so excited when they tell their friends about this new wonderful activity they found, your next beginner's class will be more populated and these Student Dancers will be helpers.

Chapter 12: Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter (avoiding 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines)

Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter should almost always be taught very soon after your Student Dancers have learned and danced the four foundational calls. You might even teach these two Flutter calls while you are still teaching the four foundational calls. This helps you avoid calling 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines, which causes abrupt uncomfortable overturning to the Left and Right by the women. This causes them to tire sooner and leave the dance early, taking their partners with them. As a general rule, you should also avoid 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines in all of your choreo.

If you need 2 Ladies Chain for Square resolution purposes, call Right and Left Thru and then Flutterwheel instead.

If you need the Boys to be partnered with the girl in front of them, NEVER call 2 Ladies Chain followed by Right and Left Thru. This is horrible overturning for the Boys. What you need to call here instead is Flutterwheel. When the flow for Flutterwheel isn't there (as it often isn't), achieve the proper flow by calling this:

 Square Thru 3
 Courtesy Turn
 Flutterwheel

It is highly recommended you read and internalize the next two chapters before you begin teaching the Flutter calls. These chapters will be entitled: Tantalizing Tidbits and Turn Thru, and The Power of Zoom. This is because it will empower you to call several tips with varied choreo that will provide your Student Dancers and your helpers with exciting new dance experiences over and over again.

Moving right along, Partner Trade is by far the most important call to review and dance right now, as you are preparing them to learn Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter. This is so they can start getting accustomed to the dancing flow of Partner Trade followed by Reverse Flutter. This is something you should call fairly regularly to unwind the Boys rather than continuing to turn them to the Right over and over again.

You will be teaching Wheel and Deal from Outfacing Lines, and Zoom, very soon also. These are subjects for future chapters. The very next chapter will be entitled Tantalizing Tidbits and Turn Thru. The Tantalizing Tidbits stuff will be utilized to create "brain spacing" when you are teaching the calls in the next few chapters.

Flutter is a perfect opportunity to teach your Student Dancers that two people can change places without hearing the word Trade. Trade traditionally requires dancers to have their shoulders pointed towards each other). This is one reason why it is so vitally important to teach Flutter early. As you will also see, another reason is that Flutter, Zoom, and Wheel and Deal will help you build wonderful new dance experiences for

your Student Dancers. This will add a new level of excitement to their dancing experience.

Hopefully, you are still calling Partner Trade only from Corner Lines Facing Out so that everyone is Facing back In when they finish. So as a warm up for a Flutter teach, it might be beneficial to first call this:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Pass Thru
Partner Trade (*Corner Lines*)
Right and Left Thru
Right and Left Thru again (*Corner Lines*)

As they begin the Courtesy Turn portion of the final Right and Left Thru in the sequence above, stop the music and say we are now going to learn Flutterwheel.

Tell your Student Dancers something like "Girls, when I say go, you will step forward and gently take each other by the right forearm and turn like a Right Allemande until you can let go and return to where you are standing right now, Facing back In. That's what you do with your right hand".

You said "and return to where you are standing right now" because 4 Ladies Chain muscle memory may set in. Teaching Flutterwheel will be infinitely more difficult if you have already called 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines.

Then continue with something like this:

"Girls, get a good look at the Boy directly across from you. He's going to be your new Partner. As you do your Right Allemande with each other, you will use your Left hand to escort him back with you to be your new Partner, exactly where you are standing right now."

"Boys, get a good look at that girl across from you because when she comes towards you and offers you her left hand, you gently hold her left hand with your right hand and go forward with her to be her new Partner, over there."

Now call Flutterwheel and keep helping and let your helpers help also.

After two or three tries, if you have a Student Dancer Boy who is still not willingly going with the Girl across from him back to her spot, you might say something like this: "Girls, as you do your Right Allemande this time, I want you to use your left hand and grab hold of that guy's right ear and pull him back with you!"

This should create a lot of giggles. You may have guys covering their ears with their hands. You may have some women shaking their index fingers at the guy across from

them. This could be a really funny moment if you handle it correctly. This tremendously helps in the learning effort. If you are teaching kids, make sure you tell them you are kidding.

At this stage, don't call Reverse Flutter yet. It's better to call Flutterwheel twice to give them more practice. As long as you call it two times, four times, any even number of times, your Student Dancers will return to a Corner Line.

Once they are dancing Flutterwheel accurately and smoothly, go ahead and teach Reverse Flutter, probably during the same lesson. This is explained later in this chapter.

In a few lessons your Student Dancers will be learning Wheel and Deal from Outfacing Lines, maybe the very next lesson after you have taught the Flutter calls. Right now, of course, you will continue to call Flutterwheel two times or four times so they always return to the Corner Line. This is so you can utilize previously danced choreo.

Once your Student Dancers have learned Wheel and Deal from Outfacing Lines, you should call Flutterwheel an odd number of times. You might consider the following sequence as one of your choices:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Right and Left Thru
Flutterwheel
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Right and Left Thru
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Centers Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
You're Home

As you know, it's always best to inspire the need to know and the desire to learn, rather than just teach. With the choreo above, this is exactly what you've done. You used recently learned calls to take them on a choreo journey that is new and exciting. You are the one who is guiding them on this journey. Be ready at this time for a little happy and a somewhat unexpected mood "oomph" to happen right now. Enjoy it with them.

Hopefully, you have avoided calling 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines. If you haven't avoided it, you will have immense difficulty teaching Flutterwheel.

The Girls will have a horrible time trying to hold on to the right arm and return to their starting position instead of going across to be Courtesy Turned by the Boy in front of them. Once 2 Ladies Chain muscle memory is ingrained, teaching Flutterwheel is a nightmare.

This is worth emphasizing over and over again.

Avoiding this nightmare is exactly why it is advisable to teach Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter during or just after the teaching of the four foundational calls, so you can avoid calling 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines at all cost.

A lesson or two after you have taught Wheel and Deal from Outfacing Lines, you will be teaching Zoom. Dancing all around the Square with these new calls your Student Dancers have learned will be a new and exciting dance experience. So, you might consider calling this:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Right and Left Thru
Flutterwheel
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal

The above sequence has two possible finishes, depending on whether your Student Dancers know Zoom yet or not:

Finish 1:

Double Pass Thru
Leaders Partner Trade
Allemande Left
You're Home

Finish 2:

Zoom
Centers Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
You're Home

This Wheel and Deal and Zoom choreo is being presented here to give you some context as to why it is so vitally important for you to strictly adhere to the principals in this teaching guide, exactly as presented. Do it 100% correctly now, and the rest of the class will be much easier. Your Student Dancers and your helpers should be much happier. You will have better class retention. You will have better recruitment for your next class. This seems to be an almost universal fact.

It is also equally important that if you do the above instructions 100%, you consider the remainder of the teaching order to be flexible. The BTG Teaching Order is not intended to be a hard and fast teaching order. It is meant to be flexible based on the needs and abilities of your Student Dancers.

Moving along, you will probably teach Reverse Flutter during the same lesson you are teaching Flutterwheel, or possibly the next lesson.

After your Student Dancers have learned Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter, it's okay to call one and then the other so that now they can learn the difference.

It is tremendously destructive to continuously, over and over again, call Reverse Flutter and then Flutterwheel (or vice versa). This happens a lot because this combination is the equivalent of Right and Left Thru. Callers who do this are leaving dancers on the same side of the Square, missing out on a great opportunity to provide a fun and exciting new Square Dance journey with Wheel and Deal and Zoom, having their Student Dancers dance all around the Square.

This is why Zoom and also Wheel and Deal from Outfacing Lines will be taught very soon, very shortly after you have taught Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter.

2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines has been included in lots of choreo that has been written over the years. In any sequence you see that includes 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines or Boxes, replace it with:

Right and Left Thru
Flutterwheel

If the choreo sequence includes 2 Ladies Chain followed by Right and Left Thru, call this instead:

Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Reverse Flutter

Once you (the instructor) have internalized all of the above principles, it is now okay to go forward and teach Reverse Flutter. Start with choreo something like this:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Pass Thru
Partner Trade

As your Student Dancers are beginning the Partner Trade, stop the music and say "now we're going to learn Reverse Flutter".

Then continue with an explanation that is similar to the way you taught Flutterwheel:

"Boys, when I call Reverse Flutter, I want you to go forward and do an Allemande Left with each other and return back to the footprint where you now are standing. Get a good look at that Girl across from you. As you Allemande Left with each other, offer your right hand to the lady in front of you and escort her back to your starting position. Ready, guys? Reverse Flutter." Help them. Let your helpers help them, too

Remember, if you call Reverse Flutter an even number of times, it zeroes out.

You will be using Reverse Flutter after Partner Trade and also after Star Thru, and later after Slide Thru. Here are some sequences to support this teach:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
No Hands Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Reverse Flutter
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Centers Pass Thru
Allemande Left
Promenade 4 Steps Home

(Anytime it's four steps Home, you can start counting immediately after the word Home. On each down beat, say one, two, three, four. Many will start counting with you.)

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
No Hands Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Right and Left Thru
Flutterwheel
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Right and Left Thru
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Centers Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
You're Home

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
No Hands Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Reverse Flutter
Pass Thru
Bend the Line
Right and Left Thru
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Centers Square Thru 3 and look for your Corner
Allemande Left
You're Home

You may notice in the last two sequences above, immediately after Reverse Flutter or Flutterwheel, both sequences are the same. That's because you have used an equivalent. Right and Left Thru and Flutterwheel leaves you in the same footprint as Reverse Flutter.

I hope you also notice you are beginning to teach Slide Thru without a walk thru or defining it, by calling No Hands Star Thru.

This is emphasizing the need to say “No Hands” before you say “Star Thru”.

Now here's a cool way to show variation with Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter when you first teach them and are beginning the review phase:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Right and Left Thru
Flutterwheel
Reverse Flutter
Allemande Left
You're Home

This might be the first time your Student Dancers will be dancing Right and Left Thru from the Corner Box situation rather than Corner Lines. Make sure you are prepared to help. Sometimes it helps to remind them they need to return to Face the same couple directly. Sometimes it also helps to explain that they are now in Boxes that are end-to-end instead of Lines which are Boxes side-by-side.

Here is another sequence you could call to exercise their knowledge of Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter before teaching other calls mentioned in this chapter:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4 (*or the equivalent*)
Star Thru (*Corner Lines*)
Reverse Flutter
Flutterwheel
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Calling Star Thru is usually better before Reverse Flutter than Slide Thru because it keeps things more concise and dances better, particularly when they are New Student Dancers. This is because Star Thru almost always finishes in Infacing Lines from 8 Chain Thru boxes, while Slide Thru oft times finishes in 8 Lines of one person each.

Please note at this time that it is usually very destructive to the learning process to call "Reverse FlutterWHEEL" this early in class. It seems that in many dancers' minds they do not properly internalize the important meaning of the word Reverse, and instead only "hear" the word Flutterwheel because that's what they've already heard. So, they can't tell who goes in first no matter which one is called. The more skilled the dancer is, the less it matters weather you say Reverse Flutter or Reverse Flutterwheel.

As we progress thru the next few chapters, understanding that the four foundational calls have already been taught, reviewed, and danced, here is the estimated priority of the calls referenced in this chapter. This is a listing, not a sequence:

Wheel and Deal (*from Outfacing Corner Lines*)
Double Pass Thru
Zoom

First Couple go Left Next Couple Go Right
First Couple Go Right Next Couple Go Left
Slide Thru (*initially taught as Star Thru with no hands from the Corner Box so they finish in the all familiar Corner Line*)

Later on, when you wish to workshop Slide Thru from same sex facing dancers, you can tell them to do their part of a Star Thru with no hands.

Much later, possibly during a workshop, you might wish to show Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter again defined as Right Hand Dancer and Left Hand Dancer.

Here's another secret you might utilize:

Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4
Star Thru (or Slide Thru)
Pass Thru
Partner Trade
Reverse Flutter
Pass Thru
Wheel and Deal
Centers Pass Thru (*Corner Box*)

To go on with other choreo from this Corner Box, or you could call:

Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
Bow to the Partner
You've Stirred the Bucket

Also notice we are not teaching Sweep 1/4 yet. Many calls will be taught and perfected before we teach this call.

As a final addendum to this chapter, here are some choreo truths (requiring standard couples but not stating required flow at this time):

Reverse Flutter = 2 Ladies Chain

Flutterwheel = 2 Boys Chain (as a description only)

If you call Pass Thru then Wheel and Deal from Corner Lines, the following truths apply:

Flutterwheel before Outfacing Lines Wheel and Deal = Boys Zoom after
Outfacing Lines Wheel and Deal

Reverse Flutter before Outfacing Lines Wheel and Deal = Girls Zoom after
Outfacing Lines Wheel and Deal

If you want to call Boys Zoom or Girls Zoom after Pass Thru then Wheel and Deal from Corner Lines, here is the entire formula starting from a Squared Set so you can have your Student Dancers finish at Home:

1. Heads (or Sides) Square Thru 4
2. Star Thru (*with or without hands*)
- 2 ½. Optional Square Thru 3 and Courtesy Turn
3. Pass Thru
4. Wheel and Deal

5. If you now call Girls Zoom:

6. Double Pass Thru
7. All Partner Trade
8. Double Pass Thru
9. Leaders Partner Trade
10. Allemande Left
11. Right and Left Grand
12. You're Home

5. If you call Boys Zoom instead:

6. Double Pass Thru
7. Leaders Partner Trade
8. Centers Face In and Back Out
9. You're Home

All of the above is included in this chapter because it is one general theory to have your Student Dancers continue to progress thru a stagnation point that happens in most beginners classes at about lesson eight. This stagnation point is quite possibly best described as:

Mental Meltdown

The principles presented in this chapter are the best way to push thru Student Dancer Mental Meltdown. It will take a few lessons, but stick with it and your Student Dancers almost always will emerge as rapid learners for the remainder of the class. Their excitement will continue to build. If you stick with it, they will stick with it also.

Following these principles as you progress thru the BTG will allow you to have better dancers at the completion of the class, more Student Dancers remaining in the class and not dropping out, and recruitment for your next class should be better. The helpers will be happier.

It is very important to stick with the principles presented in this BTG.

In most cases, the actual order in which the calls are taught (after the four foundational calls have been taught) is not nearly as important.

Chapter 12: Flutterwheel and Reverse Flutter (avoiding 2 Ladies Chain from Infacing Lines)

Appendix 1: BTG Teaching Order

The following teaching order provides you with the formation and sequence of calls to use.

Lesson One, First Tip Choreo: ***(from a Grand Circle)***

Bow to the Partner
Bow to the Corner
Circle Left
Circle Right
Face Your Partner and Dosado
Allemande Left your Corner
Single File Promenade
Promenade (Couples)

Lesson One, Second Tip Choreo: ***(converting from Grand Circle to Squares)***

Make the Grand Circle into four Couple Circles
Align the Circles as Squares
Define The Head and Side Couples
Heads move Up to the Middle and Back
Sides move Up to the Middle and Back
Face your Partner and Dosado
Face your Corner and Allemande Left
Right and Left Grand
Promenade Home
Heads Dosado
Sides Dosado
Heads Pass Thru and Promenade Home
Sides Pass Thru and Promenade Home

Probably:

Heads Square Thru
Sides Square Thru

Singing Call:

Teach Swing Your Partner
and Swing Your Corner, Promenade Home
Heads or Sides Square Thru
Swing Corner, Promenade Home

Maybe Now:

Boys Right Hand Star and go Home
Girls Right Hand Star and go Home
Boys Right Hand Star, Allemande Left Your Corner, You're Home
Girls Right Hand Star a Full Turn, Boys Courtesy Turn your Partner, You're Home

Lesson Two or Three Choreo:
(all from Corner Lines)

Star Thru
Right and Left Thru
Pass Thru and Bend the Line

Lesson Three Choreo:
(from Corner Lines after Pass Thru)

Boys Trade
Girls Trade
Centers Trade
Ends Trade

Lessons Three and Four Choreo:
(from Outfacing Corner Lines [Corner Lines and then Pass Thru])

Review above Trades
Partner Trade (from Outfacing Corner Lines)
Dance them

Lesson Five Choreo:
(from Outfacing Corner Lines)

Passing Trades vs. Turning Trades

Outfacing Corner Lines (Heads or Sides Square Thru, Star Thru, Pass Thru):

Girls Trade (passing)
Centers Trade (turning)
Boys Trade (turning)
Girls Trade (turning)
Centers Trade (turning)
Boys Trade (passing)
Pass Thru
Boys Trade (passing)
Centers Trade (turning)
Boys Trade (turning)

Girls Trade (turning)
Centers Trade (turning)
Girls Trade (passing)
Right and Left Thru
Star Thru
Allemande Left
You're Home

Lesson Five or Six Choreo:
(from *Outfacing Corner Lines*)

Ends Trade
Centers Trade
Dance and review all Trades
Swing Thru
U-Turn Back

(Now it's possibly time for a change of pace.)

Grand Square
Wheel and Deal
Double Pass Thru
First Couple go Left next Couple go Right
First Couple go Right next Couple go Left

First Couple Go Right Next Couple Go Left
Run
Separate
Separate Around 1 to a Line
Separate Around 1 and Come Into the Middle
Separate Around 2 to a Line
Separate Around 2 and Come Into the Middle
Pass Thru and Separate
Pass Thru and Separate Around 1 to a Line
Pass Thru and Separate Around 2 to a Line
Pass Thru and Separate Around 2 and Come In to the Middle
Pass Thru and Separate Around 1 and Come In to the Middle

At this point in their learning cycle, they have now completed the very critical early stages of learning. All of the remaining calls will be listed on a checklist and you can refer back to the BTG chapters for choreo info and teaching suggestions.

BTG Teaching Order Checklist

Call (From X Position)	Check when Call Taught											
Bow to your Partner (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Bow to your Corner (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Circle Left (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Circle Right (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Face Your Partner and Dosado (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Allemande Left your Corner (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Single File Promenade (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Promenade (<i>Couples</i>) (<i>Grand Circle</i>)												
Heads move Up to the Middle and Back (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Sides move Up to the Middle and Back (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Face your Partner and Dosado (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Face your Corner and Allemande Left (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Right and Left Grand (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Promenade Home (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Heads Dosado (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Sides Dosado (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Heads Pass Thru and Promenade Home (<i>Square Set</i>)												
Sides Pass Thru and Promenade Home (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Heads Square Thru (<i>4 only; Squared Set</i>)												
Sides Square Thru (<i>4 only; Squared Set</i>)												
Swing Your Partner (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Swing Your Corner, Promenade Home (<i>Squared Set or Circle</i>)												
Heads or Sides Square Thru (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Boys Right Hand Star and go Home (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Girls Right Hand Star and go Home (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Boys Right Hand Star (<i>Squared Set or Circle</i>)												
Allemande Left Your Corner (<i>Squared Set or Circle</i>)												
Girls Right Hand Star a Full Turn (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Boys Courtesy Turn your Partner (<i>Squared Set</i>)												
Star Thru (<i>Corner Box or Corner Lines</i>)												
Right and Left Thru (<i>Corner Lines</i>)												
Pass Thru and Bend the Line (<i>Corner Lines</i>)												

Call (From X Position)	Check when Call Taught											
Passing Trades (from Outfacing Corner Lines):												
Boys Trad												
Girls Trade												
Centers Trade												
Ends Trade												
Partner Trade												
Turning Trades (from Ocean Waves [after Boys or Girls Passing Trade]):												
Right Trade												
Left Trade												
Swing Thru (Right Hand Trade, Left Hand Trade)												
U-Turn Back (Outfacing Corner Lines)												
Separate (Squared Set)												
All of the following Separates are also from Squared Sets												
Separate Around 1 to a Line												
Separate Around 1 and come into the middle												
Separate Around 2 to a Line												
Separate Around 2 and come into the middle												
Pass Thru and Separate												
Pass Thru, Separate Around 1 to a Line												
Pass Thru, Separate Around 1 and come into the middle												
Pass Thru, Separate Around 2 to a Line												
Pass Thru, Separate Around 2 and come into the middle												
Boys Run												
Girls Run												
Put Centers In												
Cast Off												
1/4												
1/2												
3/4												