

HOW TO TEACH BASIC 50 THE FIRST NIGHT OF CLASS

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Notice I did not say how to teach the Basic 50 first night of class! I might be fast but not that fast. So here comes some more “I want to hold your hand”(a previous article) this again meets all the criteria; “teaching from lines and in this case two faced lines” as well. “Holding hands in this case with the partner” “NO three-quarter turns” “Instruction in everyday ENGLISH”. On night one of class you have taught “Partner, corner, circle left/right, swing partner, forward n back, heads, sides, circle right go single file, boys move up inside, promenade by twos, wheel around promenade the other way round (boys on outside etc) you might also have taught do sa do, allemande left, turn partner right etc but they are not essential. Now I am going to teach the whole sequence in ONE hit! I know it works, I have been calling it for the past 3 years, on a trial basis. You might feel not quite so brave so after the sequence I will give lesser sequences to enable you to build up more slowly to the full dance pattern. I have also called it with non square dancers, at one night stands so no pressure! But new dancers do need to understand you first time, words coming out quickly, no long pauses! Head couples take partner by “handy hand” (boy right girl left) and walk out to the couple on your right, **Lead to Right** (18) Face those two, **As Couples Veer Left** (47) a little footwork here, both couples side on left, close right to left, side on left and one step forward on right “you have a two faced line!”(2 faces one way and two faces the other!) **As Couples Trade** (40) Thats all hold hands including girls in middle, all

walking forward in an ark, to each others places. **As Couples Circulate** (50) couples move on to next couples spot! Infacers walk across, outfacers go around end to next spot, feels like the trade to you but only outfacers do it! **As Couples Circulate** again facing in walk across, facing out trade around to face in! Now **Bend line** (23) hold partner by hand, middles (back up; ends walk forward, face the two in your line) **Forward and Back** with great big yell!. (1p 2p line) **Swing partner**, all join hands, **Forward and Back**, all **Circle Right**, drop hands go single file one behind each other. Boys move up on the inside, **Promenade** by twos. Then do it all again with the sides leading right etc. So it’s that easy; Basic number 50, first night! Alright they hold their partners hand all the way thru, that was to give security! Do not split couples up, they are adults not children! They could well have been married 30/40 years, they came to do something “**together**” this we do far too little of! The ladies worked hard to bring hubby along, they did not come to have some bimbo drag her husband off while she gets some old duffer. The elation when they get it right with their own partner that is something to celebrate! They are hooked!! The words as couples are taken from the A1 **As Couples Concept**, they really do help; keep using it with every couples move over the first 10 weeks then slowly decrease. So now let me give you some shorter, easy sequences which are also useful to keep their minds active and give more successes to celebrate!

Heads/sides **Lead to Right, Veer to Left, Bend Line, Forward and Back, All Pass Thru, Swing Partner, Promenade Home.**

Heads/sides **Lead to Right, Veer to Left, Bend Line, Forward and Back,**

All **Pass Thru** Hold one hand with Partner and **Bend Line** again – (1p 2p line), **Circle Left to Home**

Heads/sides **Lead Right, Veer to Left, As Couples Trade, Bend Line** (1p 2p line), **Circle Left** to home, Now teach couples promenade halfway.

Heads/Sides **Promenade Halfway** around, Heads/Sides **Lead to Right, Veer Left** (2 face line), **Couples Circulate, Couples Circulate** again, **Bend line** (1p 2p line), **Swing Partner Promenade** home.

If at all possible on Week One teach the following sequence. It is absolutely essential to Fast Track Teaching, **but** the first move is **not** even on the List! If you have “angels” or you are teaching on a club night, you will get comments, ask them to reserve judgment until they have seen the results over 10 weeks.

Heads/sides take your partner by the hand and walk out to couple on your **Left Left** Face those two. (**Lead to the Left**). Starting with right foot **Veer Right**, side close side, forward (two face line) **As Couples Trade, Bend line**, face same two (1p 2p line) **Forward and Back, Circle Right** 2 steps, Home! You could also put in Couples Circulate once or twice or more, finish with **Couples, Promenade** home! They are in the correct position to do so! I only put the emphasis on lead left and veer right for your club dances, if you have no experienced dancers it will seem quite natural to new dancers!

You can now, if you have time, teach 1 or 2 moves you would usually do on a first night **BUT DO** try and run over all the moves they have done in the last tip in standard short sequences including lead left! Then finish with a lively, easy,

non progressive singing call for that feel good factor to bring them back next week.

On week two start with a quick recap of the five moves plus circle left/right and start teaching Tip 2 nice and early, helps the move forward Mr Motivator! Lets start with an easy but different sequence like:-

Heads/sides **Promenade Halfway, Lead to Left, Veer to Right** (2 face line), **Promenade** home or you can put in some **Couples Circulate**. If you wish. But do remember Not to call Circle 8, its too like Circulate.

NOW commence with some **single** dancers trade/circulate.

Heads/sides **Lead Right, Veer Left, Couples Trade, Just the girls Trade, As Couples Circulate** (new partner), **As Couples Circulate** again, **Just the girls Trade** (get partner back), **Bend Line, Swing Partner, Promenade Home**. Or you could be devious and after “**Bend the Line**” have all the Couples **Wheel Around** to face the other way and **Promenade** home! Use it like a Courtesy Turn “Boys back up, girls go forward” which will be invaluable for Ladies Chain/Right and Left Thru later. Now back to why we used lead to the left last week:

Heads/sides **Lead to Left, Veer to Right, Just the boys Trade**, (centres) **As Couples Circulate** (new partner), **As Couples Circulate** again, **Bend the Line** (face same two), **girls walk across, Swing** partner, **Promenade** Home. Do it again but this time have the ladies touch right hands as they pass and give a left hand to the partner and “As Couples Wheel Around to face the same two.” That teaches **Two Ladies Chain** on the

hoof. You are more likely to have new dancers get the ladies chain first time if you chain them to their partners, than away from partner and Wheel Around is more descriptive than Courtesy Turn..

Let's try it again. Heads/sides **Lead Right, Veer Left, As Couples Trade**, then **Just the Ladies Trade** (centres), **Bend the Line, 2 Ladies Chain across** (to partner) with a Wheel Around **Forward and Back**, all join hands **Circle Right go Single File, Just the girls You Turn Back**. Shake right hand with partner, pull by, left to next pull by, right to next pull by, left to next pull by (**Right and Left Grand**.) **Swing** your partner! You should be home! Now teach four ladies chain, if you want to teach it with the four ladies across from home I would also teach rollaway, all circle left, roll the girl from your right hand side to your left hand side; (**rollaway**) **circle left, rollaway** again **circle left** till the boys get back home, then ladies step forward make right hand star **.4 Ladies chain back** home, boys give her a left hand and Wheel Around – Home! Now try it again **4 Ladies Chain across** (away from partner) then Head/side men (with new girl) **Lead Right, all Veer Left** (2 face line), **Couples Trade. Just the boys Circulate** (outside), **Just the boys Circulate** again **As Couples Bend line, Swing** partner (original) **Promenade Home**. So now put it all together:-

4 Ladies Chain across (away from partner), **Just the Head Ladies Chain** back (to partner), Heads **Lead to Left/Veer Right, Just the boys Trade, Just the girls Circulate**, all **Promenade** two steps **home**.

Just the Head Ladies Chain across (away), **Side Couples Lead Left, Veer Right, boys Trade, girls Circulate**

(outside) **Promenade Home** There you have it Acey Duecy in all but name on week 2. I did not trade the dancers end to end or have the centres circulate inside. The latter I leave until I want to teach box circulate, a good time for both, is when they start mumbling about learning. Plus, a few good sessions of A.P.D. can work wonders! Save our squares **S.O.S. Mainstream**

I did not come up with all these ideas alone there are other callers around who believe we need to sharpen up our act to get away from our very "Square" image. I must thank the South Texas Callers Co-operative. Watching and joining in their classes over many years has to show, their professional teaching methods, which has been very enlightening! I haven't used whole sequences, sometimes just a well placed word has sparked a series of thoughts, one leading on to another and some word pictures solve the problems, but not all travel well, you just have to try them! I was discussing the use of couples circulate on Week 1 or 2 with Jerry at Peppermint Palace, he said it was easy; he uses the couples approach with the word picture of golf carts (Buggies) following each other around a golf course each with a couple in , following around to each green! We don't use many carts here, most golfers walk round, but it does give a clear picture for par 2 holes, just don't 'play thru' Please!

Finally on Week 2 we still have time to teach "circle to a line" as danced USA style. You have already taught all the bits! Here's how:-

Heads/sides **Lead Right** – done that! (All the rest is **Circle to a Line**), **Veer Left** (done that), Heads (outfacer) do your part of **Couples Trade** (done that) while **Sides Veer Right** (done that) 1p 2p

lines **Forward and Back**. Repeat for sides. Not the way we did it, but move with the times! I am sure you can think of many more ways to use these moves with a limited number of basics, next week you can move on to swing thru at least Alamo style if not a lot more.

Now the Health Warning, these innovations **will** speed up the teaching programme if you leave out the “dross” (non essential moves), it can **halve** the teach programme. As I mentioned earlier Wheel Around will speed up teaching Right and Left Thru and 2/4 Ladies Chain and the Trade and Circulate will help speed up Wheel and Deal, and First couple Left, next Right; Flutter Wheel feels like Couples Trade to the men and Reverse the Flutter feels like Couples Trade to girls along with Sweep ¼ and Ferris Wheel. Why not try Centres In and “As Couples Cloverleaf” instead of Cast Off ¾, you can use Couples Hinge before teaching Single Hinge. I still think that teaching Ends Hesitate, Centres, do a You Turn Back (away from centre) and As Couples Wheel and Deal is a far better way to teach Recycle, but that’s just a personal view, So why not give some “teaching time” a new look what have you got to lose ?

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saying “CHANGE, YES, WE,
CAN”!!!**