

Square Dancing Study Guide

WHO'S WHO IN THE SQUARE

A square consists of four **couples**, with one couple stationed on each of the four sides of the square. Everyone starts facing the center of the square. Each couple consists of a **"boy"/"man"** and a **"girl"/"lady"**, with the boy standing on the left. The actual sex of the dancer is unimportant as long as everyone remembers who is the "boy" and who is the "girl". Each member of a couple is the other member's **partner**. The lady on a man's left is his **corner**, and conversely the man on a lady's right is her **corner**. Couples are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 starting with the couple closest to the caller and moving counterclockwise. Couples 1 and 3 are the **heads**, and 2 and 4 are the **sides**.

When drawing square dance figures, it is traditional to specify men as squares and women as circles, with small protuberances denoting the front of the body. When the Unnamed Facility club draws square dancing figures, couple 1 is blue, couple 2 is red, couple 3 is green and couple 4 is yellow.



Square dances begin in the square formation. As the dance progresses, new formations occur, and you might find yourself at some points in the dance with a partner who is not your original partner. At any particular point in time, your partner is the person standing alongside you, and your corner is the person across the corner as described above. For example, a call to "swing your partner" would mean to swing your current partner, NOT your original partner from the starting square if that is different from your current partner. However, your designation as man, lady, head, side, or couple 1, 2, 3, or 4 will remain with you throughout the entire dance from your position in the starting square.

Circle Family

People Involved	two or more dancers
Start	Facing each other
End	Facing each other
Movement	(a) Circle Left, (b) Circle Right – Dancers join hands to form a circle, face lightly left or right as directed and move forward around the circle the distance directed. When left or right is not specified for the circle, it is a circle to the left.

Forward and Back

People Involved 1 dancer is fine but 8 dancers is popular
Start single dancer
End (no change)
Movement Each dancer steps forward three steps and pauses while bringing the free foot forward and touching it to the floor without transferring weight. Each steps back three steps beginning with the free foot and pauses while touching the free foot beside the weight-bearing foot. From facing lines of four or similar situations where eight counts are not appropriate, each dancer steps forward and pauses while bringing the other foot forward and touching it to the floor without transferring weight. Each steps back on the free foot and pauses while touching the other foot beside it.

Do-sa-do

People Involved 2 Dancers
Start facing Dancers
End (no change)
Movement Dancers advance and pass right shoulders. Without turning, each dancer moves to the right passing in back of the other dancer. Then moving backwards, each passes left shoulders returning to starting position.

Swing

People Involved 2 Dancers
Start facing Dancers (man and lady)
End couple
Movement Dancers step forward ending right side to right side and move around each other turning in a clockwise direction four or more counts. Dancers break out of the swing. The lady continues turning to her right until facing the same direction as the man, they form a couple.

Promenade Family

People Involved 8 Dancers
Start (a) COUPLES PROMENADE: promenade formation.
(b) SINGLE FILE PROMENADE: single file promenade
End Square Set Setup
Movement (a) COUPLES PROMENADE: As a unit the couple walks forward around the circle counterclockwise. Unless otherwise specified, they promenade until reaching the man's home position. At the end of the promenade the couple turns, as a unit, to face the center of the set. If promenading to the man's home position, the couple always goes at least one quarter around the square. If need be, they continue past the man's home position for another full time around.
(b) SINGLE FILE PROMENADE: Dancers move forward in single file counterclockwise or clockwise around the circle, as directed.

Allemande Left

People Involved	2 Dancers
Start	any positions where dancers can conveniently turn 90 degrees or less to face their corner.
End	facing their original partner
Movement	Dancers face their corners and turn by the left forearm. Releasing arm holds and stepping forward, each dancer ends facing his partner.

Right and Left Grand Family

People Involved	8 Dancers
Start	square or circle or any position where dancers may conveniently turn 90 degrees or less to face opposite sex, men facing counterclockwise, ladies clockwise.
End	facing the dancer whom he/she started with
Movement	(a) RIGHT AND LEFT GRAND : If necessary, dancers turn 90; or less to face opposite sex (men counter-clockwise, ladies clockwise) join right hands, if not already joined, and pull by. Each moves ahead, around the circle, and gives the left hand to the next, a right to the next and a left to the next until each dancer meets the person with whom he started. (b) WEAVE THE RING : A right and left grand without touching hands. (c) WRONG WAY GRAND : Like right and left grand, but men move clockwise and ladies move counterclockwise.

Star Family

People Involved	2 or more dancers
Start	facing dancers, facing couples, square, circle
End	star
Movement	(a) LEFT HAND STAR , (b) RIGHT HAND STAR . The directed dancers step forward and extend designated hands to form a left or right hand star. Dancers turn the star by walking forward in a circle around the center of the star. Turning distance of the star may be specified in fractions of one quarter, one half, three quarters, or a complete revolution

Ladies Chain Family

People Involved	4 or 8 dancers
Start	Ladies Chain: facing couple, Couple Chain Down the Line: RH-2-Faced Line, LH-Wave
End	facing couple
Movement	(a) TWO LADIES CHAIN : The ladies step forward, extend right hands to each other and pull by. Each man steps forward and to the right, turning left to face the same direction as the lady beside him. The lady extends a left hand to the man for a courtesy turn. Couples end facing each other.