

3/05

LEVEL I  
FRESHMEN SQUARE DANCE  
Square Dance Study Guide

Square Dance Terms

1. ALL AROUND YOUR LEFT HAND LADY - corners move around each other, the man moving around behind the lady and back to place, the lady moving in front of the an and back to place, both always facing the center of the set.
- \* SEE SAW YOUR PRETTY LITTLE TAW - <sup>DO-SI-DO PASSING LEFT SHOULDERS.</sup> partners, move around each other in the same manner. The entire action makes a figure eight pattern.
- \* 2. ALL EIGHT - Refers to all eight members in the set. 4 couples
- \* 3. ALLEMANDE LEFT - Corners join left hands, turn around each other and go back to place.
4. ALLEMANDE RIGHT - Man joins right hands with the lady indicated by the call, turns her once around and goes back to place.
5. BACK TRACK - This call usually comes during a grand right and left. Dancers meet their partners opposite home positions, grasp right hands and turn half around to face reverse direction. Dancers then repeat grand right and left in reverse direction.
6. BALANCE - Partners face, join inside hands or man may hold lady's left hand in his right.
  - a. Each take two steps backward, dipping back on second step, then two steps forward to original position.
  - b. Or, man rocks back on left, taking weight on left, pointing right in fronts (cts. 1,2), then steps forward right to original position (cts. 1, 2). Lady's part reverse.
- \* 7. COUPLES - A man and a lady. The lady stands at the man's right. \*
- \* 8. COURTESY TURN - The lady places the back of her right hand in the small of her back and extends her left arm to the man. The man places his right hand behind the lady on the lady's right hand and hold the girls left hand with his left hand. the lady is on the man's right side and both are facing forward in the same directions. The couple walks forward in a small circle.
- \* 9. HEADS - Refers to couples one and three in the set.
- \* 10. HEAD COUPLE - In square dancing the Head Couple is couple number one or the couple with their backs to the music.
- \* 11. SIDES - Refers to couples two and four.
12. SIDE COUPLES - Refer to couples two and four in a set of four couples for additional information and diagram.
- \* 13. SET - Refers to a group formation. In square dancing it is used to refer to the arrangement of the four couples in a "square" formation. The terms "Set" and "Square" are used interchangeably in referring to this formation.
- \* 14. HOME POSITION - Original position of each dancer or couple in the set. \*  
Men always return home after promenading.
- \* Square Your Set. means go back to your home (starting spot).

15. PARTNER - Lady to immediate right of man and man to immediate left of lady. Also called Taw, Honey, etc.
- \* 16. CORNER - The lady on the man's left - also called left hand lady. The lady's corner is the man on her right.
- \* 17. OPPOSITE - The person standing in opposite position across the set.
18. RIGHT HAND LADY - The lady in the couple on the right.
19. LEFT HAND LADY - Lady on the left or corner lady.
20. BUZZ STEP - A step used in folk, square, or social dancing, but primarily in a square dance swing. Dancers turn clockwise. Step right on ball of foot pivoting clockwise (ct. 1), push with left, placed slightly behind and close to right (ct. 2 and). Repeat movement (ct. 3 and) (ct. 4 and). Couples may turn around as many times as music or call allows. The body weight remains on the right, the pivot foot, while the impetus for the pivot is added by the slight push given by the left foot. The right foot remains in contact with the floor, to act as pivot point for the turn.
- \* 21. CIRCLE - Four, six, eight, or more dancers join hands in a circle and move left or right as directions of the call or dance indicate. In a square dance call if the direction is not indicated, circle left. \*
22. CLOSED POSITION - Partners should stand facing each other, shoulders parallel and toes pointed directly forward. Man's right arm is around the lady and the hand is placed just below her left shoulder blade. The lady's left hand and arm rests on the man's upper arm and shoulder. Man's left arm is raised sideward to the left and he holds her right hand in his palm.
- \* Do-Si-Do  
23. ~~Do-Si-Do~~ - The man and lady face, pass each other right shoulder to right shoulder, move around each other back to back and return to original positions. This movement is also executed in certain regions to call Do-Sa-Do and Do-Si-Do.
24. DO-PASO: Partners face, join left hands, turn once around to face corner; corners join right hands and turn once around to face partner; partners join left hands and man places right arm around lady's waist and turns her counterclockwise in place. The Do-Paso movement is usually done only once through. the movement describes a figure eight.
25. FILE - A type of formation: Dancers stand one behind the other, all facing the same direction.
26. FOREARM GRASP - Partners grasp each other by the forearm just below the elbow with either right or left hand as directions indicate. This grasp is commonly used in Western Square Dance for: Allemande Left, Back Track, Do-Paso, Do-Si-Do, etc.
- \* 27. GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT - Partners face, grasp right hands, move forward to the next person grasping left hands, move to the next grasping right hands and so on around the circle until partners meet. \* Ladies move clockwise \* Men counterclockwise around \* the circle. The grand right and left is also referred to as a "right and left grand" or a "right and left eight". In Western Square Dancing when partners meet on the opposite side of the set from home position, the caller usually directs them to "promenade home", however, if directed by the caller they may be allowed to continue the grand right and left until they meet in home position. In European folk dancing the term "chain" refers to Grand Right and Left.
- \* Weave the Ring - Grand right and left without joining hands.

28. LADIES CHAIN

- \* TWO LADIES CHAIN - Ladies meet in center, clasp right hands, pass right shoulders and give left hand to opposite man. Man puts his right arm around lady's waist and turns her around counterclockwise to face same couple again. Ladies return to partner in the same manner.
- \* 29. FOUR LADIES CHAIN - All four ladies place right hands in the center, forming a star as they catch hands, and move to the left around circle to opposite man. He turns lady as described above. Ladies return to partners in the same manner.
- 30. PASS RIGHT THROUGH - Two couples face. They move toward each other, each dancer passes his opposite's right shoulder, and continues in same direction to execute the next call given.
- \* 31. PROMENADE \* → MEN ESCORTS THE LADY, WHO IS ON HIS RIGHT, AROUND THE SQUARE BACK HOME. - Couples move counterclockwise around the set or large circle in promenade position (refer to Promenade Position for description). In Square Dance the man may give his partner a finishing whirl, bow and/or swing before resuming ready position facing the center of the set. The man may turn the lady clockwise under his upraised right arm or he may turn the lady counterclockwise by pulling slightly with his right hand finishing the turn by dropping his right arm over her head and down. Man and lady join inside hands, steps away from each other in a dip backwards, step toward each other, and face center of square.
- 32. PROMENADE IN INDIAN STYLE - Promenade one behind the other in single file back to place - lady in front, man behind. The call "Promenade in Indian Style" is usually followed by the call "Turn right back and swing the girl behind you". The men turn around and swing the girl immediately behind.
- 33. PROMENADE INSIDE RING - Promenade counterclockwise around the inside of the square.
- 34. PROMENADE OUTSIDE RING - Promenade counterclockwise around the outside of the square.
- 35. PROMENADE POSITION - Partners stand side by side facing line of direction. The lady stand to the right of the man. The man holds the lady's right hand in his right and her left hand in his left. The mans' right arm is crossed above the lady's left arm. In some sections of the country it is customary for the man to cross his right arm underneath the lady's left arm. The promenade position is also referred to as the skater's position.
- 36. REVERSE LINE OF DIRECTION - Refers to the direction of movement of dancers around the circle clockwise. Dancers move in the opposite direction from the line of direction.
- 37. RIGHT AND LEFT THROUGH - Two couples face each other. Man and lady extend right hand to their opposite and pass thru the opposite couple. The ladies pass left shoulders as they pass through. Having passed through, couples drop hand, men take partner's left hand in his left, places right arm around partner's waist and the couples turn counterclockwise until they face again. Couples are now in opposite positions. Couples repeat movement to return to original position. Note; Many square dance groups, now omit the extension of the right hand before passing through.
- \* SWING - PARTNERS MAY HOOK ELBOWS TO SWING.

38. RIP AND SNORT - The couple indicated leads down the center and goes under the arch formed by the opposite couple. The lead couples only, drops inside hands and lead the entire circle under the arch. the man going to the left, lady right. The couple forming the arch rings the dishrag and the circle is back in its original position. All hands remain joined throughout movement except as indicated above for the lead couple.
39. SASHAY - Dancers move around each other. The man moves sideways to the right and behind the lady and the lady moves sideways to the left and in front of the man. Dancers face the center of the circle throughout the Sashay.
40. SASHAY HALF WAY AROUND - The man moves sideways to the right and behind the lady as the lady moves left and sideways in front of the man to exchange places. Dancers do not encircle each other. This call is often followed by "Re-Sashay", which means for dancers to simply retrace their steps to original places.
- \*41. SQUARE - The formation for square dancing. A square is composed of four couples, each standing on the imaginary sides of a square, facing the center. Each couple stand with their backs to one side of the room. \*Also called a set. \*