

CREATING SMOOTH FLOWING CHOREOGRAPHY

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LESSON # 5

Calls we can use to create smooth Body Flow

Basically, I think we have three types of Calls, Walking Calls, Turning Calls, Sliding Calls and their combinations.

Walking Calls: “Circle Left or Right”, “Forward & Back”, “Dosado”, “Promenade Family”, “Right & Left Grand Family”, “Left & Right Hand Stars”, “Pass Thru”, “Separate Around One or Around Two”, “Circulate”, “Lead Right”, “Grand Square”, “Walk Around The Corner”, “Sea Saw”, “Dive Thru”, “Slip The Clutch”, “Extend”, “Double Pass Thru”, “First Couple Left/ Next Couple Right”, “Zoom”, “Ferris Wheel”.

Turning Calls: “Swing”, “Allemande Left”, “Arm Turns”, “U Turn Back”, “Courtesy Turn”, “Do Paso”, “Bend The Line”, “Star Thru”, “California Twirl”, “Circle To A Line”, “Wheel Around”, “Box The Gnat”, “Shoot The Star”, “Trades”, “Alamo Style”, “Swing Thru”, “Flutterwheel”, “Sweep 1/4”, “Touch 1/4”.

Sliding Calls: “Split Two”, “Half Sashay”, “Veer Left”, “Veer Right”, “Step To A Wave”.

The remaining Calls are combinations of **Walking & Turning**, or **Walking & Sliding**, such as “Right & Left Thru”, “Wheel & Deal”, “Ferris Wheel”, “Square Thru”, “Ladies Chain”, “Chain Down The Line”.

I’ve taken these Calls from the Basic List only, you can figure out the Mainstream List. This is my interpretation of how Calls work and what I use when I’m creating Smooth Flowing Choreography, should you have a different opinion that’s okay.

To Create Smooth Flowing Choreography we need to know in which category the Calls belong, which in turn will prevent our created choreography from turning the dancers into the floor, similar to installing a screw-nail into a piece of wood. For example, if we were to Call from an **8 Chain Thru Formation** the following, “**Dosado / Swing Thru / Boys Run / Bend The Line/ Right & Left Thru / 2 Ladies Chain / Flutterwheel / Sweep 1/4**” we are turning the Dancers into the floor, because we didn’t build any Walking Calls into our Choreography.

Another very important factor in knowing the category is, when we bring the dancers into the centre of the set from an **8 Chain Thru Formation**, “**Dive Thru**” (*which is a walking Call*) then Call: “**Centres Right & Left Thru**” what we have done is, from a Walking Call made them jam on the brakes to do the (*Turning Call*) **Right & Left Thru** Should your timing be slightly late, they will have already started to anticipate a “**Pass Thru**”, (*Walking Call*), because that’s what their Body Flow wants them to do. Furthermore and if we are on time, we are telling them to do a Turning Call in a very close situation, which could result in shoulder bumping or heel tripping as they try to jam in the **Courtesy Turn**. I try to avoid these situations completely.

What we can learn from knowing these categories is, that to create smooth flowing choreography we need to (a) Use more **Walking Calls** around the outside of the set, such as Circulates. (b) Use **Turning Calls** from Lines Facing. (c) **Avoid** using **Turning Calls** in the centre of the set when in a **Double Pass Thru Formation**. This is not the same as “Heads Flutterwheel & Sweep 1/4, type of action or Left or Right Hand Star type action .

Some Callers have “a hang up” of staying in a Zero Box, because they feel safe there and could resolve the Square quickly if need be. Therefore we need to take steps which will allow Callers to feel confident to resolve the Square from any Formation.

Get your Dolls set up in a Static Square and push them through this little exercise.

Call: “*4 Ladies Chain / Heads: Square Thru 4 / Right & Left Thru / Veer Left / Couples Circulate / Bend The Line*”. Now look for **#1 Man**, he is on the **Left End of Lines Facing**, where is **#1 Lady**? She is beside him. Call: *Pass Thru / Wheel & Deal*. Now where is **#1 Couple**? **Home**. Look for **#4 Man**, he is in the **Centre** of the set **Facing #4 Lady**, Call: “*Pass Thru / Allemande Left*”. Okay, that was too easy.

Set your Dolls up again in a Static Square Call: “*Heads: Lead Right / Circle to a line/ Touch 1/4 / All 8 Circulate / Boys Run / Pass Thru / Trade By / Star Thru*”. Where is **#1 Man**? In the Centre of a Line Facing, put him on the **Left End of the Line** he is facing, Call: “*Right & Left Thru*”, now he is there, where is **#1 Lady**? She is in the same line as #1 Man but at the other end. Call: “*Pass Thru / Bend The Line / Star Thru*”, now **#1 Couple** are together in # 4 Couples Spot. Where is **#4 Man**? He is **Facing # 1 Lady**, Call: “*Right & Left Thru / Dive Thru / Pass Thru /Allemande Left*”. That was also too easy. I’ll try harder to make it more difficult.

Set up your Dolls in a Static Square again, Call: “*Heads: Square Thru 4 / Swing Thru / Boys Run / Couples Circulate / Chain Down The Line*”. Where is **#1 Man**? He’s on the Left End of Lines Facing, Where **is #1 Lady**? In the same line but on the far end, Call: “*Pass Thru / Bend The Line / Star Thru*”, **#1 Couple is at Home**. Where is **#4 Man**? Looking at **# 1 Lady**, Call: “*Right & Left Thru / Dive Thru / Pass Thru / Allemande Left*”. This was also too easy.

If you spend 30 minutes per day for 5 to 7 days of **pushing your dolls** through the above three little exercises you will quickly learn how to see where **#1 Man** or **#1 Couple** and **#4 Couple** are in the Square and by following these **Rules**: “**Put #1 Man on the Left End of Lines Facing**”. “**Put #1 Lady Beside him and on his Right**”, “**Call: Pass Thru Wheel & Deal**”. “**Find #4 Man in the Centre of the Set**”, “**#4 Lady is either Beside Him or Facing Him**, (a) **If she is on his Right Hand and they have their backs toward #1 Couple**. **Call: Swing Thru / Boys Run / Wheel & Deal & Sweep 1/4/ Home**. Or (b) **#4 Man has his Back toward #1 Man and is Facing #4 Lady**, **Call: Pass Thru / Allemande Left**, or (c) **#4 Man Has His Back toward #3 Man and is Facing #4 Lady**. **Call: Square Thru 3/4 / Allemande Left**. Or (d) **#4 Man and #4 Lady are together and with their Backs towards #3 Couple**, **Call: Swing Thru / Boy Run / Bend The Line / Home**.

Push you Dolls through any little sequence of calls you can create without worrying about “Where is my Corner”. Then Put #1 Man on The Left End Of Facing Lines, locate his Partner and

put them together as a couple then finish the resolve. This is a **learned skill** and to learn it well you must practice it, over and over with your Dolls, before you try it with your dancers.

Exercise:

Set up your Dolls in a Static Square and push them through the following sequences, then Resolve to an **Allemande Left** or to **Home**, by **First placing #1 Man and / or #1 Couple on the Left End of Lines Facing, and Resolve from there.** Send me your answers and I will check them and return them to you. I must see:

- 1. #1 Man on the left end of Facing Lines.**
- 2. #1 Couple on the Left End of Facing Lines.**
- 3. Then the Resolve.**

1. H: Star Thru / Double Pass Thru / Leaders Partner Trade / Swing Thru / Girls Circulate / Boy Run / Couples Circulate / -----/ -----/ -----/.
2. H: Pass The Ocean / Ladies Trade / Swing Thru / Boy Run / Wheel & Deal / Pass Thru / Swing Thru / Boy Run / Couples Circulate / Bend The Line / Touch 1/4 / ----/----/----/.
3. H: Square Thru 4 / Touch 1/4 / Walk & Dodge / Partner Trade /----/----/----/.
4. H: Lead Right / Veer Left / Couples Circulate / Chain Down The Line /----/----/----/.
5. H: Pass The Ocean / Ladies Trade / Extend / Single Hinge / Centres Trade / Ends Circulate / Boys Run /----/----/----/.
6. S: Pass Thru / Separate Around One to a Line / Star Thru / Double Pass Thru / ----/----/----/.
7. S: Half Square Thru / Touch 1/4 / ----/----/----/.
8. S: Pass The Ocean / Extend / Swing Thru / Girls Circulate / Boys Circulate / ---/----/----/.
9. S: Lead Right / Star Thru / Pass Thru / Girls Run /----/----/----/.
10. H: Lead Right / Circle to a Line / Pass Thru / Tag The Line /----/----/----/.

Take your time.
Have Fun

This is the end of Lesson #5