

How to prepare for a workshop

1. Look up the definition in the Callerlab manual.

Questions to ask yourself.

- What is the starting formation?
- What is the ending formation?
- What is the standard formation?

2. Re-write it in your own words.

Sometimes the official definition is very wordy and not altogether understandable. So think about what you are going to say. You can probably make it much easier to understand. Try to get away from saying Boys do this, Ladies do this. Keep it to ends and centres as much as possible.

3. Prepare some easy examples.

One very important item, write out the calls in full, one call per line. As we all use computers you can easily make a neat and readable document. No abbreviations, it makes it hard to read for you and anybody else, especially later on when you go back to the workshop. Also make sure you send a copy to the web master for inclusion in the OACA web site.

Some quick examples with easy set-up, do the call, get out as fast as you can. Some examples for the Heads and some for the Sides as the active couple.

4. Expand on the examples.

Now create some examples using different starting formations and different partner pairings. Some questions to ask:

- Can it start from a Corner Box?
- Can it be done from Lines of four?
- Can it be done from two-Faced lines?
- How about Static Square?
- Or from any other starting formation
- Can you end with a Right and Left Grand?
- Can you end with an Allemande Left?
- Can you end up at Home?

Prepare examples for as many formations you can, again with easy set-up and fast get-out.

5. Prepare a Singing Call.

It is always a good idea to have two or three singing call figures written out. When you are working out some sequences take note of any short examples that can be used as a singing call. Keep the sequence to about 48 – 50 beats so that the dancers have plenty of time to complete the figure.

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6. Dress for the presentation.

When you give a presentation, look the part. If you want to be taken seriously then look neat and tidy. No tee shirts, torn jeans.

7.

All this takes time, so no scribbling notes just before you leave home or at the meeting. If you are not fully prepared then do not present the workshop. It might take several tries in the proceeding weeks to put it all together.

8. Resources.

Callerlab manuals at [www. Callerlab.org](http://www.Callerlab.org)

Definitions

Standard Applications

Taminations Web Site

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An Example using Swing Thru

Callerlab Definition.

Swing Thru – Those who can turn by the right one half (180°), those who can turn by the left one half (180°).

Left Swing Thru – Those who can turn by the left one half (180°), those who can turn by the right one half (180°).

If “right” is not specified before the command to Swing Thru then it is “right” Swing Thru

Starting Formation.

Ocean waves or Alamo ring. Facing couple rule also applies.

Ending Formation.

Ocean waves or Alamo ring.

Easy Examples.

Heads Square Thru 4
Swing Thru
Boys Run
Wheel And Deal
Allemande Left

Heads Square Thru 4
Pass Thru
U-Turn Back
Step To A Wave
Swing Thru
Recycle
Pass To The Centre
Centre Star Thru
Home

Remember that we can call Swing Thru from six different wave arrangements. Prepare examples of each one.

BGGB

GBBG

BGBG

GBGB

BBGG

GGBB

Check out the Standard Mainstream Application manual from Callerlab for the different formations.

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How can we expand the call.

First remember that we can call Swing Thru from a Left Handed Wave, so the people in the middle will start by turning right then all will turn left.

Swing thru once and a half
Swing Thru once and a quarter

From BBGG or GGBB waves

Boys start a Swing Thru
Ladies start a Swing Thru
Boys / Ladies start a Swing Thru once and a half
Boys / Ladies start a Swing Thru once and a Quarter

From a wave with the heads/sides together ie. HHSS or SSHH

Heads/Sides start a swing thru
Head/Side Boys start a Swing Thru
Head/Side Ladies start a Swing Thru
Head/Side Boys start a Swing Thru once and a half
Head/Side Ladies start a Swing Thru once and a quarter

Now we can repeat all of our starting formations and arrangements from Left Hand Waves.