

A Word About the Six Couple Handout

By Don Beck

At your Beck & Call

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I just thought that I would mention that I have always chosen to do Six Couple dancing from Facing Lines instead of a Rectangular Set. I guess it is a personal preference, but for me, it's easier to set up and easier to use Modules or Mental Image. I'm sure these same principles can be used with the four head couples and two side couples starting setup that many use.

Here's how I typically set up the sets. I have dancers square up normally, with three squares across. Then I have Sides Lead Right and Circle to a Line. Next I have the center square divide in half, sliding two couples to the left and two to the right, to join the other squares. I then tell them that this is home, etc.

If I only have six couples, I have one square Square Up. Then have the Sides LeadRightAndCircleToALine. Next have the other two couples, who were about to go home because they couldn't dance the last tip, join the two lines, one couple on the end of each line.

The beauty of this is that if you are lucky enough to have, say seven squares, you can have two rows of three divide into two sets of six each, as described above, and have the left over square just make regular lines. All of the choreography described in the handout works equally well for four couples as it does for six. Further, if you have two squares left over, they can each dance as four couple lines or they (or you) can choose to have them dance as eight couple lines. It will still all work, except for the timing of the final promenade home.

Remember, this is a gimmick, so a little goes a long way. Even very simple choreography feels excitingly different to the dancers. This also works, with the right calls, at Advanced and Challenge. Good luck. Have fun. And most of all, let your dancers have fun.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at donbeck@donbeck.org.



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