

SCATTER SQUARE DANCE

United States

Scatter Square Dancing is a fun, easy way to mix dancers on the dance floor. It is a rhythmic activity for young people and adults which allows them to learn basic square dance figures and formations.

The Square Dancing of Appalachia, Western Square, Modern Square Dance and now, Scatter Square Dancing, all share the rich history of movement and patterns which have developed and evolved in many areas within the United States. Together they form the foundation for an American dance form, which continues today under the guidance of the traditional square dance "caller".

Dance forms considered to be predecessors of the American Square Dance include the family of English Country Dances, (i.e. Rounds, Longways Sets, and Square Eight,) and the French Contredanse; (Cotillion and Quadrille.)

The Square Dance music listed below is a medley of four traditional songs: Bonaparte's Retreat, Leather Britches, Mason's Apron, and Devil's Dream. The musical arrangement includes an 8 count introduction.

FORMATION: Mass

POSITION: Promenade

MUSIC: Statewide, Las Vegas 2001—"Folk Dance Classics"

Organize the dancers randomly throughout the dance floor. They will begin solo, and then have the opportunity to join with others in partnerships, small groups, lines, and circles. With each new figure, new partners are selected allowing everyone to mix freely during the activity. The dance leader need not be skilled in square dance, or in the art of "calling" square dance. However, a little practice and familiarity with the calls and figures below will allow the dance to run smoothly.

DANCE NOTES: Remember that at anytime during the activity you can call, "*wave goodbye and hit the trail,*" and everyone will once again circulate across the floor to find a new partner, awaiting your instructions.

METER: 4/4

PATTERNS

I. TRAVELING CALLS:

Hit the lonesome trail:

Individuals circulate throughout the room walking to the rhythm of the music

Keep time with the music:

Clap your hands, slap your thighs

Say how do you do:

Individuals greet one another as they pass on the floor

Say fine thank you:

Individuals respond to one another

Find a partner:

Individuals find a partner a listen for the next call

Find another couple:

One couple finds another couple on the floor and face them

Wave goodbye:

Individuals wave to one another and hit the trail

II. PARTNER FIGURES

<i>Allemand L:</i>	Give a L forearm to your partner and turn once around
<i>Allemand R:</i>	Give a R forearm to your partner and turn once around
<i>Circle up two and circle R:</i>	Give 2 hands and circle R
<i>Circle up two and circle L:</i>	Give 2 hands and circle L
<i>Do-si-do your partner now:</i>	Passing R shoulders, walk around your partner backing into place
<i>With your partner seesaw:</i>	Passing L shoulders, walk around your partner backing into place
<i>Elbow swing your partner L:</i>	Hook L elbows and turn once
<i>Elbow swing your partner R:</i>	Hook R elbows and turn once
<i>Swing your partner:</i>	Take your partner in closed position and buzz turn (only for some groups)
<i>Take your partner, promenade:</i>	Join hands in promenade position and walk together around the room

III. CIRCLES OF FOUR

Introduce the term, "your corner." You will then be able to incorporate many of the partner figures with the new "corner."

<i>Circle up four and circle R:</i>	Give hands and circle R
<i>Circle up four and circle L:</i>	Give hands and circle L
<i>Go into the center and sound off:</i>	Everyone in the circle head for the center and give a yell. Then back out.
<i>R hand star around the ring:</i>	Everyone puts their R hand into the center and walks CW
<i>L hand star around the ring:</i>	Everyone puts their L hand into the center and walks CCW

Dive for the oyster, dig for the clam, Shoot the hole through the ol' tin can: One set of partners dive for the oyster by going halfway through an arch and then backing out. The other couple does the same to dig for the clam. The 1st couple then dives completely through once again, drops hands, separates to go around the other couple and reconnect.

Four Leaf Clover One set of partners dive under an arch and turn under their own arms to face the other couple (all keep hands joined).

Mountaineer's Loop One set of partners dive under an arch, drops hands, separates to go around the other couple and reconnect. Then the other couple performs the same figure.

IV. BIG CIRCLE

Allemande L with your L hand, a R to your partner for a R and L grand.

Also remember: Circle L and R, Sound off, Elbow Swings, Allemande L and R, etc.

Dance notes by Ed Austin

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