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SAGE Square Dance Class

Basic and Mainstream Dance Definitions

The definitions included in this section are not the official Callerlab definitions. The definitions printed in this handbook are less formal and, we hope, more readable although details have been sacrificed for clarity. The definitions are for the 48 calls that comprise the Basic Dance Program (Parts 1 & 2) and the 19 additional calls for Mainstream. They are culled from a more extensive list of definitions found on MIT's Tech Squares website (https://www.mitedu/~tech-squares/lessons/) and reprinted with their generous permission.

Basic Program – Part 1

1. Circle Left/Right: Typical starting formation - circle of eight. Dancers join hands and move around the circle in the indicated direction. If no direction is given, dancers circle left.

2. Forward and Back: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Dancers step forward 1 to 3 steps, pause, and back up 1 to 3 steps. Ends in facing couples.

3. Dosado/*Dosado to a Wave*: Typical starting formation - facing dancers. Dancers walk forward past each other passing right shoulders, slide to the right, and back up past each other passing left shoulders. Ends in facing dancers.

4. Swing Your Partner: Typical starting formation - man and lady facing. Dancers step up into ballroom position. The man's right hand is on the lady's upper back, near her shoulder blade, and his left hand holds the lady's right hand. The lady's left hand rests on the man's right shoulder. Dancers stand slightly offset from each other and move forward around each other by pushing forward with their outside (left) feet, and walking in a very small circle with their inner (right) feet. To break out of a swing, the couple releases their handhold and the lady rolls to end next to the man on his right, facing promenade direction. Alternatively, to twirl, the man and lady raise their joined hands and drop their grips, while the lady turns under their joined hands toward the right. Ends in a couple facing promenade direction.

5. Promenade Family: Typical starting formation - squared set or dancers facing their partners. Dancers turn as necessary to face counterclockwise and adjust to be a couple with the man toward the center of the square and the lady on the outside. Dancers join left hands together and right hands together with the lady's left arm over the man's right. Dancers walk forward around the square until they reach their home position where they turn to face in. Ends in a squared set. If a fraction is given, designated dancers promenade around the square that fraction, and then face in on squared set positions, while the others step into the middle to get out of the way and then back up.

Single File Promenade: Typical starting formation – columns or single file promenade. Dancers walk forward single file in promenade direction. On Single File Promenade Home dancers stop when they get home and face in. Ends in single file promenade or squared set.

Wrong Way Promenade: Reverse Promenade is the same as Promenade, but dancers face clockwise with the lady toward the center.

Star Promenade: Typical starting formation – 4 person star in the center and 4 people on the outside. Centers retain the star handhold and promenade with the designated dancers. Instead of joining hands with their partner, each dancer places an arm around their partner's waist.

6. Allemande Left: Typical starting formation - squared set or dancers facing their corners. Dancers face their corners, if necessary, turn their corners by the left forearm until they are facing their partners, and step forward to face their partners.

7. Arm Turns: Typical starting formation – facing dancers or miniwaves. Dancers join indicated forearms and walk forward around each other. The amount of turn is specified by a fraction or implicitly by the next call. Ends in a mini-wave or no formation as dancers prepare to let go of the arm turn and step forward to do the next call.

8. Right and Left Grand Family: Typical starting formation - dancers facing their partners. Dancers face their partner if necessary (men face promenade direction, ladies face reverse promenade direction), right pull by with their partner, left pull by with the next, right pull by with the next, and left pull by with the next. Ends in a circle with the dancers facing their partners.

Weave the Ring: Typical starting formation - dancers facing their partners. Dancers face their partners, and walk in a circle, passing right shoulders with the first dancer, left with the next, right with the next, and left with the next. This is equivalent to right and left grand without touching hands.

Wrong Way Grand:

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9. Left & Right-Hand Star: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Dancers place the designated hands into the center of the box to form a star. They walk forward turning the star as far as directed. The ending facing direction is dependent on the next call.

10. Pass Thru: Typical starting formation - facing dancers. Dancers walk past each other passing right shoulders. Ends in dancers back-to-back.

11. Half Sashay Family: Typical starting formation - couple. The righthand dancer sidesteps to the left passing in front of the left-hand dancer who sidesteps to the right, passing behind. Ends in a couple facing the same direction but with dancers on opposite sides.

Rollaway: Typical starting formation - couple. The right-hand dancer moves forward toward their partner turning 360⁰ to end on the other side of their partner. The original left-hand dancer slides over to the right. Ends in a couple with dancers having switched positions.

Ladies Center, Men Sashay: Typical starting formation - circle of 8. Dancers drop hands, and the ladies step straight forward into the middle. The men continue circling in the direction they were circling until they have passed one lady, the ladies back up to rejoin the circle, and all continue circling.

12. Turn Back Family: Both calls in this family have the dancer turn around to end facing the opposite direction.

U-Turn Back: Typical starting formation – Individual dancer. Dancers turn around 180° in the direction they were just turning, if any. If they were not turning, dancers turn toward their partners if they have one, or else toward the center of the square, or in either direction if they are facing directly toward or away from the center.

Backtrack: Typical starting formation - single file promenade. Designated dancers flip away from center 180⁰ and walk around the outside in the opposite direction while centers continue to single file promenade.

13. Separate: Typical starting formation - pair of dancers facing out of the square. Dancers turn away from each other and walk forward around the outside of the square as directed.

Around 1 or 2 to a Line: Typical starting position – after separate or split two. Active dancers walk around the outside past the specified number of inactive dancers, and step up to or between inactive dancers to make a line while inactive dancers, if necessary, spread apart to make room. Ends in facing lines.

Around 1 or 2 into the Middle: Typical starting formation – after separate or split two. Active dancers walk around the outside past the specified number of inactive dancers, and walk forward between the outsides to end as couples in the center. If necessary, inactive dancers slide apart to let active dancers through and slide back together.

14. Split Two: Typical starting formation - eight chain. The outsides slide apart without changing facing direction, the centers walk between the outsides and past them, and the dancers who slid apart slide back together without changing facing direction.

15. Courtesy Turn: Typical starting formation - couple with man on the left and lady on the right. The man takes the lady's left hand in his left hand while the lady places her right hand in the small of her back, and the man places his right hand in the lady's right. As a couple, they turn toward the left, with the lady walking forward and the man backing up, until they are facing into the formation. Ends as a couple, usually facing the opposite direction.

16. Ladies Chain Family: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Ladies right pull by with each other, and all courtesy turn. Ends in facing couples.

Four Ladies Chain: Typical starting formation - squared set. Ladies make a right-hand star and turn the star 1/2, and all courtesy turn. Ends in facing couples.

Chain Down the Line: Typical starting formation - right-hand twofaced line or left-hand wave. Centers trade while the ends turn towards the center of the line, and all courtesy turn. Ends in facing couples.

17. Do Paso: Typical starting formation – squared set. Dancers face their partners, left arm turn with their partners until they are facing their corners, right arm turn with their corners until they are facing back towards their partner, and left arm turn with their partner,

blending into a courtesy turn to end facing as a couple. Ends in squared set.

18. Lead Right / Left: Typical starting formation - facing couples. On Lead Right, each couple, working as a unit, turns 90⁰ to the right, pivoting around the right-hand dancer. On Lead Left, each couple turns to the left, pivoting around the left-hand dancer. Ends in couples back-to-back.

19. Veer Left / Right: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Couples step forward and to the left or right as specified. From facing couples, ends in a two-faced line. From a two-faced line, ends in couples back-to-back.

20. Bend the Line: Typical starting formation - two-faced line or one-faced line. Working as a unit, each couple turns toward the center of the line with centers backing up and ends walking forward. Ends in facing couples.

21. Circulate Family (couples/named dancers): Typical starting formation - lines or waves. Trailers (dancers facing into the square) walk forward to take the position of the dancer ahead of them. Lead centers (centers facing out) flip over to end in the other center position facing in. Lead ends walk forward in an arc to end in the other end position facing in. Ends in lines or waves. On Couples Circulate, the dancers circulate, maintaining couple handholds.

All Eight Circulate

Single File Circulate (column): Typical starting formation - columns. The #1 dancers (those facing out of the column) flip over to end in the adjacent position facing in. All other dancers walk forward one position to end in the original position of the dancer in front of them. Ends in columns.

Split/Box Circulate: Typical starting formation - mini-wave box. Leaders flip over into the position next to them (as on run or trade). Trailers walk forward into the vacant position ahead of them. Ends in a mini-wave box.

22. Right & Left Thru: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Dancers right pull by and courtesy turn. Ends in facing couples.

23. Grand Square: Typical starting formation - squared set. Some dancers are designated to face their partners. This is a 32-beat call; the facing dancers do pattern 1 for the first 16 beats and then pattern 2 for the next 16 beats while the others do pattern 2 and then pattern 1.

Pattern 1

- 1. Back up 4 steps, turning 90 degrees to face in on the last step.
- 2. Walk forward 4 steps, facing in on the last step.
- 3. Walk forward 4 steps, facing in on the last step.
- 4. Back up 4 steps.

Pattern 2

- 1. Walk forward 4 steps, facing in on the last step.
- 2. Back up 4 steps, facing in on the last step.
- 3. Back up 4 steps, facing in on the last step.
- 4. Walk forward 4 steps.
- At the end of the call, all adjust to end in a squared set

24. Star Thru: Typical starting formation - man and lady facing. The man raises his right hand, the lady raises her left hand, and they touch hands. The lady walks under their joined hands turning 90° to the left while the man walks around the lady turning 90° degrees to the right. Ends in a couple.

25. Double Pass Thru: Typical starting formation - beginning double pass-thru. Dancers walk forward passing right shoulders with two dancers. Ends in a completed double pass-thru.

26. First couple go Left/Right, Next Couple go Right/Left: Typical starting formation - completed double pass-thru. Working as a unit, the first couple flips toward the given direction, while the next couple walks forward and flips toward the second direction. If directions were opposite, dancers adjust to end in facing lines. If directions were the same, ends in promenade.

27. California Twirl: Typical starting formation - couple with man on the left and lady on the right. Dancers raise their joined hands, and the lady walks under turning 180[°] to the left while man walks around the lady turning 180[°] to the right. Ends in a couple facing the opposite direction.

28. Walk Around the Corner: Typical starting formation – squared set. Dancers face their corners and walk in a circle around their corners, with their right shoulders into the center of the circle.

29. See Saw: Typical starting formation – dancers facing their partners. Dancers face their partners if necessary and walk around their partners passing left shoulders until they are facing their corners.

30. Square Thru/Left Square Thru: Typical starting

formation - facing couples. On Square Thru,

- 1. Right pull by.
- 2. Face into the group of 4 and left pull by.
- 3. Face into the group of 4 and right pull by.
- 4. Face into the group of 4 and left pull by.

Ends in couples back-to-back. Numbers or fractions may also be given. For example, on Square Thru 2 or Half Square Thru, dancers do parts 1 and 2 only. Left Square Thru is the same as Square Thru, but with the right pull by replaced with a left pull by and vice versa. There is no turn on the last pull by.

31. Circle to a Line: Typical starting formation - eight chain. Facing couples circle left 1/2. The new left-hand end drops hands with the adjacent center, and the ends slide left while the centers continue circling left, twirling the last dancer under to end in a one-faced line. Ends in facing lines.

32. Dive Thru: Typical starting formation - eight chain. The centers raise their joined hands and walk forward while the ends walk forward under the arch, and the new ends California twirl. Ends in a beginning double pass-thru.

Basic Program – Part 2

33. Wheel Around (Reverse): Typical starting formation - couple. Working as a unit, the couple turns around 180[°]. The left-hand dancer backs up while the right-hand dancer moves forward. The pivot point is the handhold between the dancers.

34. Box the Gnat: Typical starting formation - man and lady facing. Dancers join right hands with the dancer across from them. The man walks forward and turns 180[°] to the right to stand in the lady's original position while the lady walks forward under their joined hands and turns 180° to the left to end in the man's original position. Dancers end facing each other in each other's original positions with right hands joined.

35. Trade Family:

Trade: Typical starting formation - wave or line. Designated dancers walk forward into the other designated dancer's original position, turning 180° to face the opposite direction. If designated dancers start facing the same direction, they pass right shoulders. If no dancers are designated, all partner trade. On **Partner Trade**, dancers trade with their partner.

Couples: Typical starting formation – two-faced line or one-faced line. Each couple works as a unit and trades with the other couple. If couples were facing opposite directions, centers maintain their handhold while they trade. Ends in a two-faced line or one-faced line.

36. Ocean Wave Rule: Calls from facing couples that begin with pass thru or pull by (for example, Right and Left Thru) can also be called from waves. In this case, dancers step thru (completing the pass thru or pull by) and finish the call.

Step to a Wave: Typical starting formation – facing dancers. Dancers ½ pass thru; that is, they step forward and slightly to the left to take right hands. Ends in a right-hand mini-wave.

Balance: Typical starting formation - Alamo ring or wave. All dancers take a small step forward and bring their other foot forward to close. All dancers then take a step back and bring their other foot back to close.

37. Allemande Left in the Alamo Style: Typical starting formation - squared set. Dancers allemande left with their corners, but instead of stepping forward, they maintain their forearm grip with their corners and take right forearms with their partners. Ends in an Alamo ring.

38. Swing Thru/Left Swing Thru: Typical starting formation - wave. In each wave of 4 dancers, those who have right hands joined, arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$, and those who now have left hands joined arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$. On Left Swing Thru, dancers who have left hands joined arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$, and those who now have right hands joined arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$.

39. Run: Typical starting formation - couple or mini-wave. The designated dancer moves forward in an arc to end facing the opposite direction in their partner's original position. The non-designated dancer moves without turning into the designated dancer's original position.

Cross Run: Typical starting formation - wave or line. Designated dancers run toward the center of the line to end in the position two away from where they started. Ends cross run into the far center position; centers cross run into the far end position. Non-designated dancers move without turning into the nearest vacated position, as on Run. Ends in a wave or a line.

40. Pass the Ocean: Typical starting formation - facing couples.

- 1. Pass thru.
- 2. Face in $(90^{\circ} \text{ turn})$.
- 3. Step to a right-hand wave.

41. Extend: Typical starting formation – 1/4 tag or parallel waves.

- From a beginning double pass thru (zero tag), the centers step to a wave. Ends in a 1/4 tag.
- From a 1/4 tag, centers step forward to make waves of the same handedness with the outsides. Ends in parallel waves $\binom{1}{2}$ tag).
- . From parallel waves (1/2 tag), the leaders step thru to make couples, and the trailers step forward to make a new wave of the same handedness. Ends in 3/4 tag.
- From a ³/₄ tag, centers step thru to make couples. Ends in a completed double pass thru

42.Wheel and Deal: Typical starting formation - two-faced or one-faced line. Working as a unit, each couple walks forward turning 180° toward the center of the line. From a two-faced line, ends in facing couples. From a one-faced line, couples pass right shoulders to end with the original right-hand couple in front of the other couple.

43. Zoom: Typical starting formation - box with tandem dancers. Leaders (those facing out of the box of 4) turn away from center and walk in an arc to turn 360° and end behind their starting position, facing the same direction. Trailers (those who start facing into the box) walk forward into the position ahead of them. Ends in a box with tandem dancers.

44. Flutterwheel / Reverse Flutterwheel: Typical starting formation - facing couples. On Flutterwheel, the right-hand dancers make a two-person right-hand star and turn halfway while the left-hand dancers slide left. Centers join their left hands with the other dancers' right hands. Dancers turn the star another half to end as couples. On Reverse Flutterwheel, the roles are reversed; the left-hand dancers make a two-person left-hand star, join their right hands with the other dancers' left hands, and finish turning the star.

45. Sweep a Quarter: Typical starting formation - facing couples. Sweep a Quarter may be called after a call that ended with all dancers moving in the same direction around the center of their box. Couples continue circling 1/4 in the same direction they were previously moving. Ends in facing couples.

46. Trade By: Typical starting formation - trade by. Centers pass thru while the ends trade. Ends in eight chain.

47. Touch 1/4 : Typical starting formation - facing dancers. Dancers step to a right-hand mini-wave and arm turn 1/4. Ends in a right-hand mini-wave.

48. Ferris Wheel: Typical starting formation - two-faced lines. Leaders do their part of Wheel and Deal while the trailers step forward to form a momentary two-faced line and wheel and deal in the center. Ends in a beginning double pass thru.

Mainstream Program

1. Cloverleaf: Typical starting formation – completed double pass thru. Leaders turn away from each other and walk forward in an arc turning 270 degrees to end facing in the center. Trailers follow the leaders, going through the same motions, to end behind the leaders. Ends in a beginning double pass thru. If only some dancers are designated, the designated dancers do the leaders' part without stepping into the center, while the others step forward into the center.

2. Turn Thru: Typical starting formation – facing dancers or right-hand mini-wave. Dancers step to a wave, right arm turn ½, and step thru to end back-to-back with each other. From a mini-wave, dancers omit stepping to a wave as they already have right hands joined. Ends in dancers back-to-back.

3. Eight Chain Thru: Typical starting formation – eight chain.

- 1. Right pull by,
- 2. Centers left pull by while the outsides courtesy turn,
- 3-8.Continue alternating parts 1 and 2.

If a number is specified (for example, Eight Chain 4), dancers do that number of parts. Ends in an eight chain or trade by.

4. Pass to the Center: Typical starting formation – eight chain. All pass thru, and the new ends partner trade. Ends in a beginning double pass thru.

5. Thar Family

Allemande Left to an Allemande Thar: Typical starting formation – squared set. Dancers allemande left, right pull by with the next, left arm turn with the next until the men are in the center. The men make a star while maintaining forearm grips with the ladies. This is an allemande thar. Centers back up slowly while the outsides walk forward.

Wrong Way Thar:

6. Slip the Clutch: Typical starting formation – thar or parallel waves. Centers and ends drop hands with each other and move up halfway to the next position. From waves, this is equivalent to ½ circulate. **7. Shoot the Star:** Typical starting formation – thar. Dancers arm turn ½ and step forward. On Shoot the Star to Another Thar, dancers shoot the star, right pull by with the next, and left arm turn ½ with the next to end in a thar. On Shoot the Star Full Turn Around, dancers arm turn all the way around (360 degrees) and step forward.

8. Single Hinge/Couples Hinge: Typical starting formation - mini-wave. Dancers 1/2 trade. From a mini-wave, this is equivalent to arm turn 1/4. Ends in a mini-wave. On Couples Hinge, each couple works as a unit and hinges with the other couple. Couples Hinge starts in a two-faced line or one-faced line and ends in a two-faced line.

9. Centers In: Typical starting formation - completed double pass-thru. Ends slide apart without turning to make room for the centers, who step forward in between the ends to become centers of a line. Ends in lines.

10. Cast off 3/4: Typical starting formation - couple or mini-wave. From a mini-wave, dancers arm turn 3/4 pivoting around their joined hands. Ends in a mini-wave. From a couple, the centers walk forward in a 270⁰ arc around their handhold while the ends back up. Ends in a couple facing in.

11. Spin the Top: Typical starting formation – wave. Dancers arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$, and the centers arm turn $\frac{3}{4}$ while the ends move up in a 90 degree arc to be ends of a wave. Ends in a wave.

12. Walk & Dodge: Typical starting formation – mini-wave box. Trailers box circulate while the leaders slide over without turning into the vacated position. Ends in couples back to back. From facing couples, the caller may designate dancers to perform each action (for example, men walk, ladies dodge). Ends in a mini-wave box.

13. Slide Thru: Typical starting formation - facing dancers. Dancers pass thru. A man always turns right $\frac{1}{4}$ (90°); a lady always turns left 1/4 (90°). Ends with dancers side by side with each other.

14. Fold/*Cross Fold:* Typical starting formation – couple or mini-wave. The designated dancer moves forward in an arc, turning 180 degrees to end in front of or behind the non-designated dancer. Non-designated dancers do not move.

Cross Fold: Typical starting formation – wave or line. Designated dancers fold in front of or behind the non-designated dancer two positions away from them. Ends cross fold to face the far center position; centers cross fold to face the far end position. Non-designated dancers do not move.

15. Dixie Style to a Wave: Typical starting formation – facing couples. The dancers on the right step forward to make a momentary double pass thru formation, right pull by, and left touch ¼ with the others. Ends in a left-hand wave.

16. Spin Chain Thru: Typical starting formation – waves.

- 1. Arm turn ½.
- 2. Centers arm turn 34.
- 3. Very centers arm turn $\frac{1}{2}$.
- 4. Centers arm turn ³/₄.

Ends in waves.

17. Tag the Line Family: Typical starting formation - wave or line. Dancers face the center of the 4-person line. Dancers extend until they have a completed double pass thru (4 times), and if a direction is given, face that direction (for example, Tag the Line Right).

Half Tag: Typical starting formation - wave or line. Dancers face the center of the 4-person line and extend 2 times. Ends in parallel waves.

18. Scoot Back: Typical starting formation - mini-wave box. Leaders flip over into the position next to them (as on a run or trade). Trailers extend, trade, and extend. Ends in a mini-wave.

19. Recycle: Typical starting formation - wave. Centers fold behind the ends, and all walk 1/4 of the way around the center of their box and face in. Ends in facing couples.

