

SAGE Square Dance Class

Social Square Dance Definitions

The definitions included in this section are not the official Callerlab definitions. These definitions are less formal and, we hope, more readable although details have been sacrificed for clarity. The definitions are for the 50 calls that comprise the Social Square Dance Program. They are culled from a more extensive list of definitions found on MIT's Tech Squares website (<https://www.mit.edu/~tech-squares/lessons/>) and reprinted with their generous permission.

Definitions for Week 1

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.

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.

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.

Dosado: 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.

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.

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.

Ladies Chain: 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 $\frac{1}{2}$, and all courtesy turn. Ends in facing couples.

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.

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.

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

Promenade (Full & Half): 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.

Right & Left Grand: 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.

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.

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.

Definitions for Week 2

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.

Half Sashay: Typical starting formation – couple. The right-hand 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 360° 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.

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

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. Dancers raise their joined hands and the lady walks under turning 90° to the left while the man walks around the lady turning 90° degrees to the right. Ends in a couple.

U-Turn Back: Typical starting formation – dancer. Dancers turn around 180° in the direction they were just turning, if any. If they were not just 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 of the square.

Definitions for Week 3

Backtrack: Typical starting formation – single file promenade. Designated dancers flip away from center 180° and walk around the outside in the opposite direction while centers continue to single file promenade.

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.

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.

Definitions for Week 4

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.

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.

Definitions for Week 5

Chain Down the Line: Typical starting formation – right-hand two-faced 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.

Circulate (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.

Lead Right / Left: Typical starting formation – facing couples. On Lead Right, each couple, working as a unit, turns 90° 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.

Trade (couples/named dancers): Typical starting formation – line or wave. 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. In no dancers are designated, all partner trade. On Partner Trade, dancers trade with their partners.

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.

Definitions for Week 6

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.

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

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ in the same direction they were previously moving. Ends in facing couples.

Definitions for Week 7

Circle to a Line: Typical starting formation – eight chain. Facing couples circle left $\frac{1}{2}$. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 lid apart slide back together without changing facing direction.

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.

Definitions for Week 8

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Trade (named dancers / RH or LH): 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 partners.

Definitions for Week 9

Extend: Typical starting formation – $\frac{1}{4}$ tag or parallel waves.

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

Pass the Ocean: Typical starting formation – facing couples.

1. Pass thru.
2. Face in (90° turn).
3. Step to a right-hand wave.

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.

Definitions for Week 10

Cast off $\frac{3}{4}$: Typical starting formation – couple or mini-wave. From a mini-wave, dancers arm turn $\frac{3}{4}$ pivoting around their joined hands. Ends in a mini-wave. From a couple, the centers walk forward in a 270° arc around their handhold while the ends back up. Ends in a couple facing in.

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.

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.

Partner Trade: Dancers trade with their partner.

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

Definitions for Week 11

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.

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.

Hinge: Typical starting formation – mini-wave. Dancers $\frac{1}{2}$ trade. From a mini-wave, this is equivalent to arm turn $\frac{1}{4}$. 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.

Tag the Line: 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.

Touch $\frac{1}{4}$: Typical starting formation – facing dancers. Dancers step to a right-hand mini-wave and arm turn $\frac{1}{4}$. Ends in a right-hand mini-wave.

Definitions for Week 12

Circulate (Split / Box): 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.

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

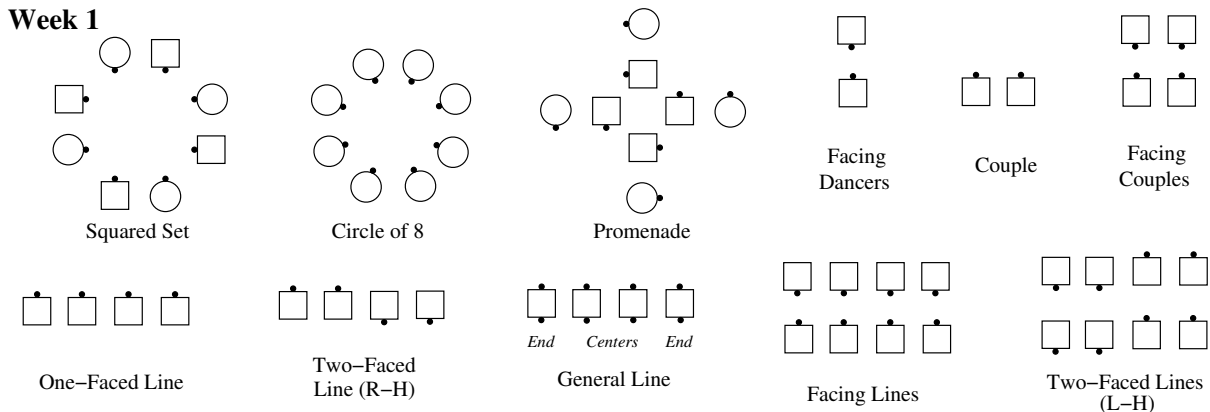
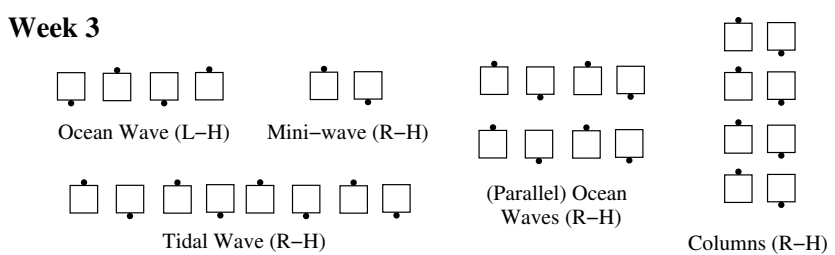
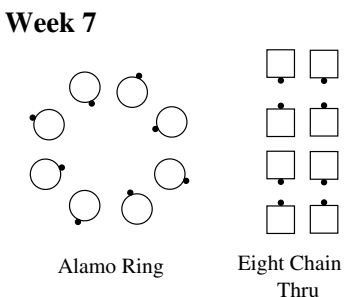
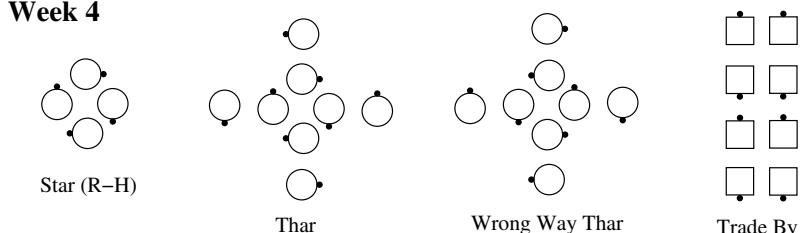
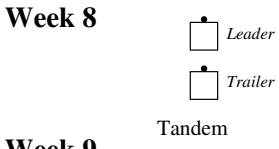
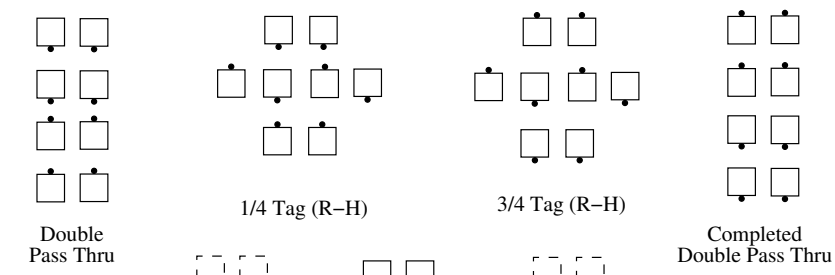
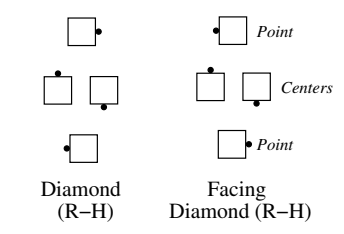
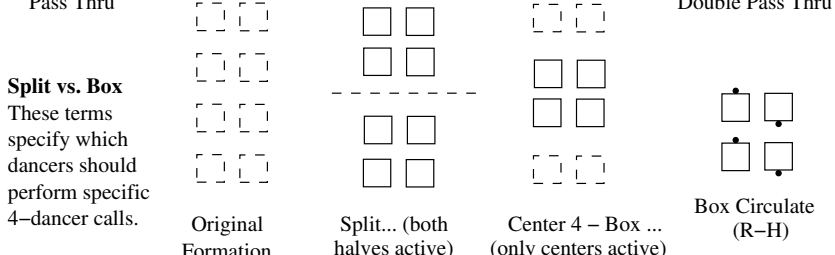
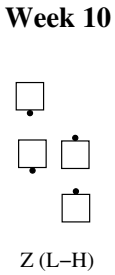
Recycle: Typical starting formation – wave. Centers fold behind the ends, and all walk $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way around the center of their box and face in. Ends in facing couples.

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 box.

Tech Squares Class

Formations

These are the square dance formations used in the weekly definitions. Not all weeks introduce new formations.

<p>Week 1</p> 			
<p>Week 3</p> 		<p>Week 7</p> 	
<p>Week 4</p> 		<p>Week 8</p> 	
<p>Week 5</p> 		<p>Week 9</p> 	
<p>Split vs. Box These terms specify which dancers should perform specific 4-dancer calls.</p> 		<p>Week 10</p> 	
<p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (R-H) = Right-Handed (L-H) = Left-Handed • = Nose (facing direction) <p>Only when both appear in <i>same</i> diagram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> = Boy's role = Girl's role 			