

# Square Recovery

by Bill Harrison

Squares break down. We don't try to do it, but it happens. Quite often, part of a square will have a problem and the other "half" will be fine. This half could be a box, a wave, a column, etc. There are ways a caller can help this square recover and there are ways in which dancers can recover a square. Listed below is a short description of recovery methods.

## **Dancers Recover the Square**

### Caller Announces The Formation:

The caller can announce what type of formation or setup they have to get the dancers back to dancing in a symmetric way.

"You have lines"

"You have right hand/left hand waves with boys as ends and girls as centers"

"You have right/left hand columns"

### Half Broken Squares:

Always be aware of your surroundings. Look for "Half Broken Squares". This is when one side has made an error creating something asymmetrical. The side that made the error can watch the other side to create a similar formation.

### Image Dancer:

Dancers can be taught to track "Image Dancer". Everyone in the square has an image dancer, these are your opposite dancers and should be diagonal in every formation of symmetrical choreography. So, if we have ocean waves and the girls are the centers, to be symmetric the Head girls are diagonal to each other as are the Side girls. The Head as ends of the same waves are diagonal to each other as are the Side men.

## **Caller Recovers the Square**

### Caller Sight Square Recovery

The Caller can sight the dancers out of a break down and not affect the other dancing squares. The caller can maneuver the dancers to a certain place to sight them back into a standard arrangement of couples. This process will recover the formation and arrangement. The sequence and relationship may or may not be corrected, but the dancers will be able to continue dancing.

The goal is to get 2 boys paired and 2 girls paired. Once you have accomplished this step, you can take the pairings and have them pass the ocean. You may need to have the centers trade or swing thru depending on what the squares look like that have not broken down. Next, call boys run and those facing out partner trade. Caution: the other two couples must be standard or ½ Sashayed for this method to work. The troubled square is normalized and the process did not affect the other squares.

Another way is get the paired boys and girls into the center of a starting double pass thru and have them swing thru, centers trade, and boys run. This will not affect the other squares as they will have a 2 faced line and the troubled square will have a 1 faced line. Next, call bend the line and the problem is solved.

Example 1: Starting in facing lines.

GB GB

GG BB- All Pass Thru, Bend The Line, Pass The ocean, Swing Thru , Boys Run, Those Facing Out Partner Trade - Normalized (may not be symmetric)

Example 2: Starting in facing lines

GG BB

GG BB-Pass Thru, Bend The Line, Pass The Ocean, Centers Trade, Boys Run, Those facing out Partner Trade-Normalized.

Example 3: Starting in beginning double pass thru

GB

BB

GG

BG -Centers Swing Thru and Centers Trade, Boys Run, Bend the line

If the boy/girl couples are not the same (one is standard and the other is ½ sashayed) you will have to use a different method such as:

Example 4: Starting in facing lines

GG BG

BB BG- Touch ¼, Walk and Dodge, Partner Trade, Slide thru, Those Facing Pass Thru, Those Facing out Partner Trade or Bend The Line and the other square has not been affected.

Understand that this will not always fix the sequence state for the broken down square. The idea is to get the nearly broken down square back to a standard arrangement without affecting the others squares. There will be times when you will not be able to sight a full recovery. In these cases, you just have to sight out the good squares and not worry about the ones that have had a problem. This repair method will require a good deal of practice and judgment to make the decision when to help or just quickly resolve the squares that are still correct. However, once you have mastered the use of this repair method, there will be a great feeling of satisfaction for both the caller and the dancers.