

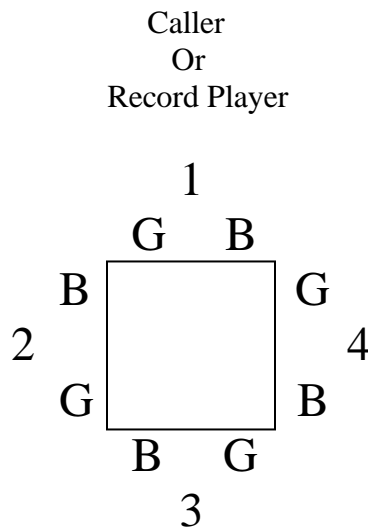
## Square Dancing Study Guide

### Brief History

- Square dancing originated in **17<sup>th</sup> century England**.
- Introduction of the “caller” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century makes square dancing unique from other forms of dance.
- **Lloyd Shaw** is one of the fathers’ of American Square Dancing.

### Sequence of Couples

- The couple with their backs to the caller or record player is always **couple number one**.
- To the right of couple number one is **couple number two**.
- **Couple number three** faces couple number one.
- **Couple number four** faces couple number two.
- Couples number one and three are the **head couples**.
- Couples number two and four are the **side couples**.
- These positions are known as the “**home positions**”.



Couples shown in “home position.”

# Square Dancing Study Guide

## Terminology

- The **partner** is the person directly to the man's right or the woman's left.
- The **corner** is the person to the man's left or the women's right.
- The **opposite** is the person directly across from you.
- The **right hand lady** is the lady in the couple to the man's right.
- The **caller** is the person instructing the basic patterns of the dance to the participants.
- The "call" is one figure ahead of the figure being danced.

## Steps and Figures

- The **do-sa-do** is executed by facing the person with whom the call is to be executed. The dancers then circumvent (walk around) each other by passing right shoulder to right shoulder, back to back and then left shoulder to left shoulder, returning to right positions.
- The **promenade** is executed by having the partners stand side-by-side facing counterclockwise; the man places both hands, palms up, in front of the lady who places her hands, palms down on the mans hand. The couples then walk around the square, stopping at home unless otherwise indicated.
- The **ladies chain** is executed by having the designated ladies walk toward each other, touch right hands, pass each other and extend their left hand to the man they are facing.
- The **allemande left** is executed by facing the person with whom the call is to be executed (usually the corner) and join left hands and walk completely around each other.
- The **forward-and-back** is executed by having the designated couples take four steps toward each other, then four steps back to home position.
- The **shuffle** is the characteristic step for square dancing.
- Most square dances performed at Cherokee High School have **eight figures**.

## Courtesy

- When an error is made in square dancing, you should go back to your "home position" quickly and try to pick up the next call.
- When several dancers in a square know the material being called and the others do not, it is best for those who know the material to keep silent and let their dancing do the communicating for them.
- Honoring your partner is an acknowledgement of your partner usually at the beginning of a dance.

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