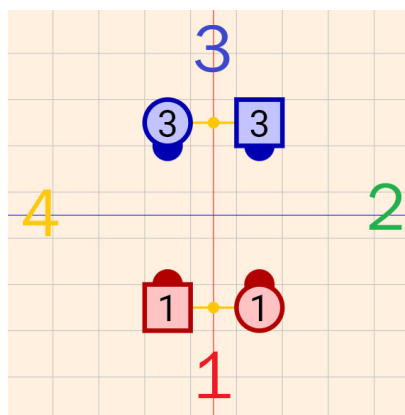


Two Couple (Isolated) Sight - Simplifying the Process of Learning to Maneuver Dancers

By Bill Harrison

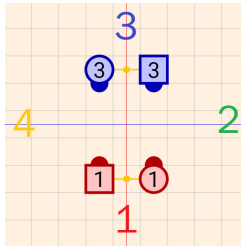
Attending a caller school is essential to learning different methods of moving dancers around the square and broadening your understanding of the art of calling. Two Couple Sight is more commonly known as Isolated Sight. Understanding how to move dancers around in a box depends on managing just two couples. Roughly 80 percent of the calls in the Basic Mainstream program require only 2 to 4 dancers to execute the call. In symmetrical dancing (where one box of 4 mirrors the other box of 4), learning to move paired dancers around in a box of 4, and using calls to exchange partners while moving them to different Quadrants within the box, will allow newer callers to progress rapidly in their ability to call interesting and manageable choreography. Importantly, this method's usefulness extends throughout one's calling career regardless of experience level, providing reassurance about the value of your learning.



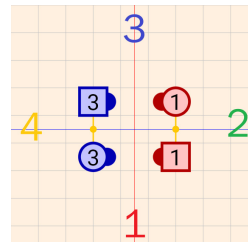
Looking at the two couples above, couple number 1 is at Quadrant 1, to the right is Quadrant 2, across from 1 is 3, and to the left of couple 1 is Quadrant 4. The numbering system is identical to that of a squared set with 8 dancers with which we are all familiar. A caller can practice using calls that will create short modules to maneuver the number 1 man around to different Quadrants with any other dancer in the box. This also works well for female callers, as they often follow the number 1 lady while moving dancers.

Examples of modules to move from Quadrant to Quadrant with (same) Partner:

Move Man 1 with Partner from Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 2 –Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line

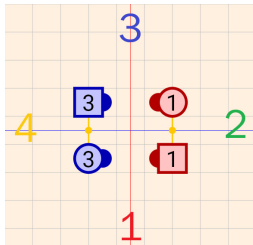


Before

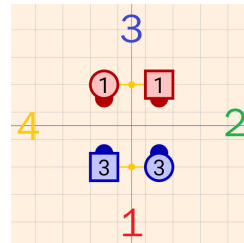


After

Move Man 1 with Partner from Quadrant 2 to Quadrant 3 –Pass the Ocean, Recycle

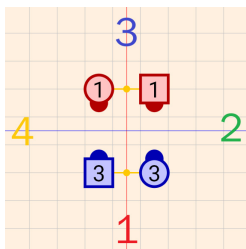


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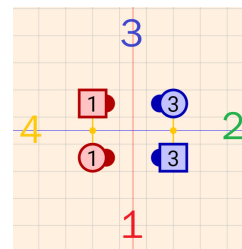


After

Move Man 1 with Partner from Quadrant 3 to Quadrant 4 –Touch ¼, Walk and Dodge, Partner Trade

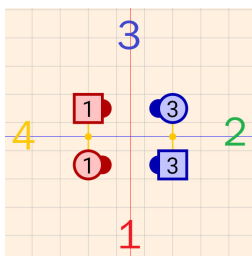


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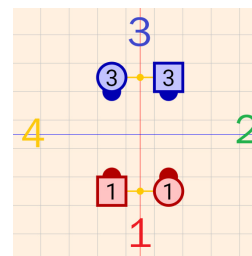


After

Move Man 1 with Partner from Quadrant 4 to Quadrant 1 –Dixie Style, Boys Cross Run, Recycle



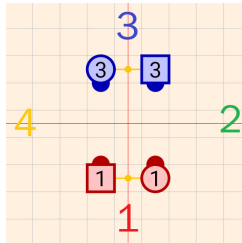
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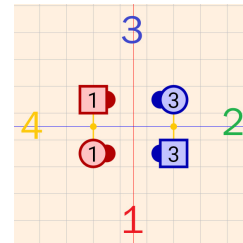
After

You will notice in the examples above, all noted choreography moved the number 1 couple in a counterclockwise direction by 1 Quadrant. However, the method is adaptable, and you can also move them clockwise, as in the example below. This adaptability will give you the confidence to handle different scenarios in your calling career. Note that these modules are equivalents to one another.

Move Man 1 with Partner from Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 4 –Right and Left Thru, Veer Left, Wheel and Deal, Sweep a Quarter.



Before



After

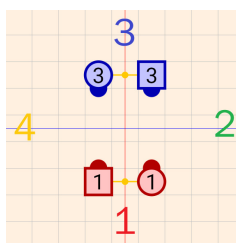
Changing Partner AND Quadrant

The next set of exercises demonstrates methods of moving Man 1 to another Quadrant, while changing partners (to his opposite lady). If Man 1 is with his opposite, we label that Quadrant with the same numbering as in the previous exercises but note that he is with his opposite by adding an “X” to the Quadrant number, like 1X, 2X, 3X, 4X.

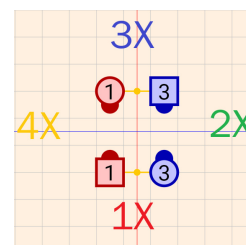
Examples of modules to move from Quadrant to Quadrant AND change Partners:

Start with getting number 1 man with his opposite lady in Quadrant 1.

Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 1X – Reverse Flutterwheel OR Two Ladies Chain, note that Quadrant stays the same but Man 1 now has his opposite lady, as designated by the “X” in the Quadrant name.



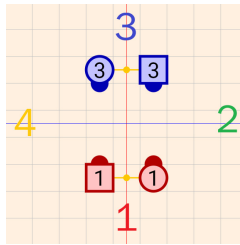
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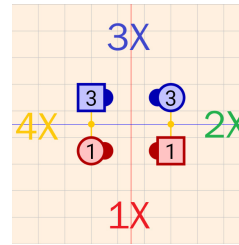
After

Once you understand this concept, you can practice in many different ways. Here are a few examples. Try and use different series of calls to get Man 1 (or Lady 1) to the designated Quadrant with Partner or Opposite (X).

Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 2X -Spin the Top, Boys Run, Wheel and Deal, note that both Quadrant and Partner change.

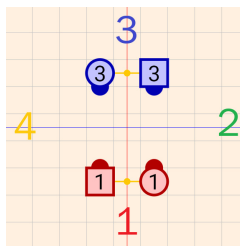


Before

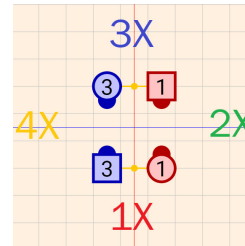


After

Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 3X – Flutterwheel OR Spin the Top, Boy Run, Bend the Line, note that both Quadrant and partner changed.

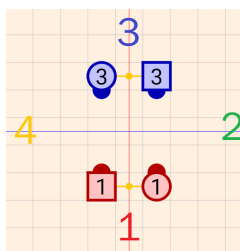


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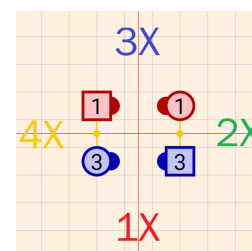


After

Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 4X – Pass the Ocean, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Wheel and Deal, note that both Quadrant and partner changed.

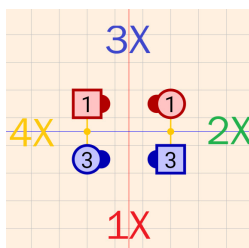


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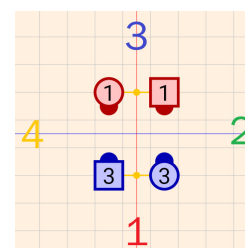


After

If you call this sequence twice, what will happen?



Before

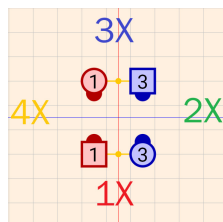


After

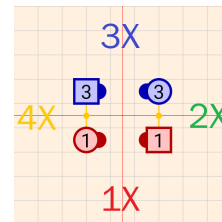
Both Partner and Quadrant will change, just as they did the first time you called the sequence. Every time you call the sequence, Man 1 will switch partners and move 1 Quadrant left.

It is also important to note that the modules in the first set of exercises can be used to move Man 1 and his partner or opposite to the next Quadrant as long as a partner change is not needed. In other words, Touch a Quarter, Walk and Dodge, Partner Trade will move Man 1 and his opposite from Quadrant 1X to Quadrant 2X (or 2X to 3X, and so on) in the same manner it moves him with his original partner from Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 2 in the first exercises.

Quadrant 1X to Quadrant 2X – Touch a Quarter, Walk and Dodge, Partner Trade (just like in example from Quadrant 1 to Quadrant 2 above).



Before

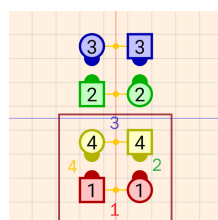


After

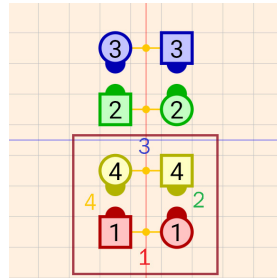
Why use this idea? First, most of us can get two couples to practice our calling with much more easily than finding eight dancers. Second, it is an easier way to learn how to move dancers in a box of 4 to 4 Quadrants than looking at 8 dancers and moving them around. Third, isolated sight will increase your awareness of how calls start and most importantly how they end. Fourth, this is a simplified way to track your primary couple, in this case the number 1 man and his partner. Fifth, this works well for women callers who often use the number 1 lady and her partner as the primary couple. Sixth, you can create flow modules meaning you create a small series of calls to move the dancers to a specific Quadrant.

Each box continues to contain the same 4 dancers as long as you are using 4 dancer calls. The beauty of this idea is whatever you call in your focus box of 4 takes place in the other box of 4 due to symmetry. Said another way, when you get 8 dancers together all of these routines will work just as they do for a single box of 4. Focus on the number 1 man to maneuver him with whoever he is partnered.

To demonstrate this visually, have the Sides lead right, and notice that the 2 and 3 couple mirror the 1 and 4 couples in our “focus” box (outlined in red below).

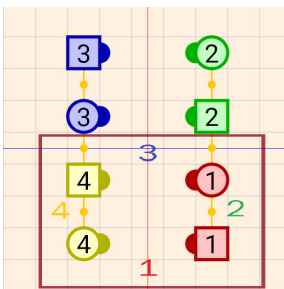


The number 1 man and his partner will be mirrored from the opposite position by the number 3 man and his partner. Imagine the Sides are not there, and we have what you had in the two couple practice. Each Box is separate. Place your focus on the near box where number 1 Man and partner are standing. Quadrant 1 is where the number 1 Man and his Partner is and Quadrant 2 is to the right of them, Quadrant 3 is across from them, Quadrant 4 is to the left of them. We treat each box like a squared set. You can use the modules you created, or Sight call the Basic Mainstream calls that deal with 2 or 4 person calls. This exercise will increase a simple sight process and mental image of short sequences to move within the box of 4.

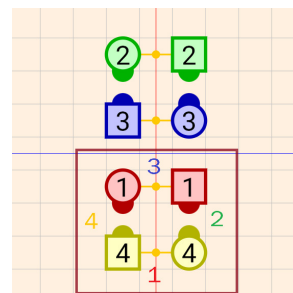


Start here, once boxes are established (sides lead right from Squared Set)

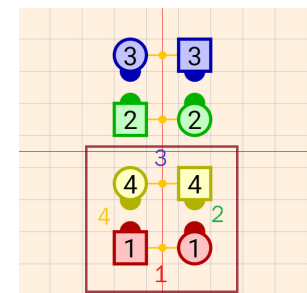
THEN



Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line
ThruMan 1 with Partner Quadrant 1 to 2



Pass the Ocean, Recycle
Quadrant 2 to 3



Right and left
Quadrant 3 to 1

I have used two couples calling in teaching beginners for at least 20 years, and I have found it amazing the formations I can get into with two couples with some choreographic imagination. I started using the two couple (Isolated Sight) method in mentoring callers with early and easy sight calling and to help them use a variety of calls to accomplish the same goal. I believe learning to move dancers around is the most important skill a new caller needs to develop before learning resolution. We must learn where a call starts and where it ends and once this is accomplished, we can learn resolution.

I must give credit to Kip Garvey for helping me with the number system as he has created two videos using two couple sight calling. Also, to David Hartman, a new student to calling for helping me implement this process and wordsmithing this paper.