

Kathy Anderson's Square Dance Callers Course at Pinewoods 2010

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1: You Can Call Squares

Programming

Variety - visiting couple, keepers, mixers, progressive, all move
Figures, breaks, endings - mix and match watch length
Start easy - hard - easy. Simple is fun - mindless squares!
Choose dances to fit the crowd, but ones you like. Success!
Challenge the crowd - big WOW squares!
Figures with flow, that feel good
Flexibility - overplan - be ready for anything
Familiar and new
Singing calls

Teaching

Know the dance. Visualize the movement.
Squares take longer, so be quick, clear, efficient.
Use demos. Cut corners - just walk hard part
Introduce key people before dancing.
Tell them where they'll end up
Don't overteach - let them try to get it - don't expect 100% success
Break up beginners - move a square up

Calling

Watch 1 front square, key on cpl #1, but be ready to switch
Timing! Call with the phrase, emphasis on 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Fit the moves to the As and Bs
Use patter, rhymes, punch for emphasis, sing it, like rap
Call as move happens, or prompting - keep them moving
Shadowing - call ahead of phrase, then again on the beat
Who, where, what directional calling - do this, do that
Fudge moves to fill the time, so you can start with the phrase
Voice - be clear, enunciate, energy and enthusiasm
Call with your key
Sound system - can they all hear you? Good mike use!
Enjoy yourself - don't get irritated - project confidence
Patter keeps the rhythm - you are part of the tune

Music

Use dances that fit the band's music
Prearrange hand signals with band- ending, slower, faster
Describe the dance - give them the pace, what kind of tune, when extra parts are OK.
No tuning during teaching
Rapport with band - tact

Starting out

Get dances from dancing, tape callers, old and new books.
Call to tapes, practice on friends, choose easy dances with good moves.
Practice teaching on beginners.

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2: Types of Squares

Southern or Appalachian – called to the beat of the music, usually on the 1st or 5th beat, as the dancers move through the figures. Patter, or nonsense calls with funny rhymes, is interspersed with commands. Hoedowns are appropriate (reels), and the length of the tune is not important (AB is OK, uneven parts). Examples - visiting couple figures in which each couple visits the other three couples, the Grapevine Twist.

Grapevine Twist **traditional** **Keeper 1,2,3,4**

Gent #1 take your partner by the wrist, go round that lady with a grapevine twist
Loop in the middle with a whoa haw gee, go round that gent from Tennessee, circle up 4...
Now gent #1, you lead em on
Take your partner by the wrist, go round that lady with a grapevine twist
Loop in the middle and don't be slow, go round that gent from O-Hi-O
Circle up 6... go on to the next
Take your partner by the wrist, go round that lady with a grapevine twist
Loop in the middle, what could be finer, go round that gent from Carolina
Circle up 8 til you get home...

Box the Gnat **Delores Heagy**

Cpl #1 go out to the right, circle up 4 (take R hands with opp)
With your opp, box the gnat, box it back, do-si-do, swing that lady high and low;
same 4 circle up 4, with your partner, box the gnat, box it back, do-si-do,
Swing your partner high and low

More examples on Pages 7 and 12

New England squares – highly phrased dances, prompted so the move happens on the phrase, often one time through the tune for the figure. The calls are directional rather than patter. The music can be reels, jigs, marches, etc. The structure is usually 7 times through the tune: Intro, Figure, Figure, Break, Figure, Figure, Ending.

Fluid Drive **Ted Sannela** **Mixer** **HHSS**

A1 Heads forward and back; circle left
A2 Left hand star; heads promenade halfway while sides right and left thru
B1 Circle 8 halfway; swing corner
B2 Promenade to gents' home

Ladies Star **Tony Parkes** **Mixer**

A1 Ladies to the center with a left hand star, A1 RP 1½
A2 Gents to the center with a left hand star, A1 RP 1½ to right hand lady
B1 Balance and swing right hand lady
B2 Promenade to gent's home

more examples on Page 6

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Western Squares – traditional Western dances, not club squares, called with patter and less attention to the phrase, keeping the dancers moving. A ladies chain may not take 8 beats, as an example. They have integrated figures from Southern squares and New England Quadrilles, adding many new figures as the demand for new dances increased after the war. It is often danced with head or side couples active, although usually everyone is pretty active. Hoedowns are good music for Western squares, and an up-tempo pace is fun for the dancers.

Worry Wart Jim York, Mill Valley, CA Keeper HSHS

Head 2 ladies chain to the right; new head ladies chain across
H 2 couples promenade halfway,
2 & 4 do a half sashay
Heads pass thru, separate, round 1, 4 in line (at sides)
Forward up 8 and back, forward and box the gnat
Pull by, all cross trail, find corner, allemande left...

Cross Trails Keeper HSHS

A1 H F & B, pass thru, cross trails, go round the outside
A2 Pass your partner, swing your corner, put her on the right, make lines at the sides
B1 F8 & B, DSD across the track
B2 R & L thru, go on over, R & L thru on the other way track
C1 Chain the ladies over, and chain 'em back with a left allemande
C2 And back to your partner with a R & L Grand; promenade.

more examples on Pages 10 and 11

Singing calls – Calls are sung to a recognizable melody, with the commands as part of the song, which is sometimes a timing problem. The figures range from very easy to complicated, and are often mixers. It is a good idea to have a band which can back up the tune.

Just Because Keeper HSHS

Everybody dosado your corner and a right hand round your partner, make it twice
Allemande left with the lady on the left and you dosado your own
Allemande left your corner lady and a right hand to your own
Grand old right and left around the ring
When you meet her down the line, promenade right home in time
Because, oh just because.
Head 2 ladies chain on over, chain those ladies right back home again
Side ladies chain on over, chain those ladies right back home again
Allemande left your corner lady, allemande right your own
Swing your corner lady round and round
You promenade the ring, throw back your head and sing
Because, oh just because.

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3: Calling Squares

Patter is the tool of the old-time square caller. The 4-count rhyming patterns make the figure easier to remember and are fun to deliver, and catch the dancers' attention. The rhymes were highly used in traditional Western squares, but syncopation can be equally effective. What you say tells the dancers what to do, but also can be fun to listen to, and can play off the rhythms of the tune.

Try these:

- Right hands across, how do you do; back by the left, fine thank you
- Chain the ladies down the line; turn em round, you're doin' fine
- Peek-a-boo over and peek-a-boo back; circle to the left on the left hand track
- Circle up four in the middle of the floor; go the other way back on the other way track

Visiting couple figures can have great flow without too much mental effort, and can be danced fast, on the phrase of 4s.

Two ladies in the center, right elbow swing(1½); opposite gent, turkey wing
Back in the center, right elbow swing (1½) ; back to your own, same old thing
Lady round the lady (split other cpl) and the gent follow, lady round the gent and the gent
also, lady round 2 and the gent fall thru, circle up 4

Squares in which the heads or sides are moving are more phrased and can be called with a combination of prompting and calling on the phrase.

Ends Turn In

- A1 H/S cpls F & B; pass thru, go round 2, make lines at the sides
- A2 Forward up 8 and back with you, forward up 8 and pass thru, arch in the middle and the ends duck thru
- B1 Circle up 4 in the middle of the floor, once around, same 2 pass thru, split 2, around one to lines of four.
- B2 Forward up 8 and back with you, forward up 8 and pass thru, arch in the middle and the ends duck thru
- C1 Circle up four in the middle of the floor, same 2 pass thru, there's your corner with a left allemande, and back to your partner, right and left grand.

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4: New England Squares

Early Autumn Breakdown Gene Hubert Keeper HSHS

- A1 Ladies grand chain over and back
- A2 H cpls R & L thru; H circle left 3/4
- B1 H pass thru, swing at sides, make line at sides
- B2 F 8 & B, Center 4 box the gnat to a right hand star 3/4
- C1 Al L C, R & L grand
- C2 Promenade, F & B

Syncromesh Square Tony Parkes Mixer HHSS

- A1 4 Ladies chain; all promenade halfway
- A2 H (S) pass thru, turn alone; all 8 circle left (LLGG)
- B1 4 gents pass thru, walk to the right single file, ladies pass thru, swing original corner
- B2 Promenade to gents home

North Fork Ron Buchanan Keeper H12 S23 H34 S41

- A1 Head 2 ladies chain across, roll away with a half sashay; pass thru, separate, go around 1, lines at S
- A2 F & B; all pass thru, turn alone
- B1 Gents #1 & #2, swing the one across, face down
- B2 Down the center two by two (direction changes each time), turn alone, back, cast off
- C1 Ladies chain across; all 4 ladies RH star to partner
- C2 Courtesy turn and promenade

Ashley's Star Bob Dalsemer Mixer

- A1 Al R P 1½, LH to next, Alamo ring, M face out Bal F & B, Al L LH person 1x to face P
- A2 DSD P; W star L 1x
- B1 W pick up P star prom halfway, M cast back, Sw the W behind
- B2 Cir L until M are home, all F & B

Shooting Stars Tom Hinds Keeper HSHS

- A1 H R & L thru; H Lad chain
- A2 S pass thru, walk to R, Lad round 2, G round 1; F 8 & B
- B1 2 RH stars; G LH star while Lad walk fwd, pass P 1st time, then
- B2 R & L Gr, Sw P at home

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5: Visiting Couple Squares

Couple #1 go out to the right, circle up four (left)

Box the Gnat (from Delores Heagy)

With your opposite,* box the gnat... box it back...

Do-si-do... Swing that lady high and low

Same four, circle up four. With your partner,

Box the gnat.... box it back..

Do-si-do... swing your partner high and low

(change hands, right to right, for box the gnat)

Peek-a-Boo (from Larry Edelman)

Peek-a-boo over and peek-a-boo back*

Circle to the left on the left hand track

Circle up four in the middle of the floor

Couple #2 it's up to you

Peek-a-boo over...

Swing your opposite gal... swing your partner

(Cpl #1 arch over lady #2, back arch over gent #2)

Reach Right Back (from Pam McKeever)

Right hand star, back by the left, not too far

Reach right back and pop her thru

(gents turn back to twirl opp lady under to a right hand star)

Reach right back and pop her back

Reach right back and give her a twirl

Swing, swing, swing that girl

Put her on the right and swing your own

Two Gents (trad)

Two gents in the center, right elbow swing (1½)

Opposite lady, turkey wing (left elbow)

Back to the center, right elbow swing (1½)

Back to your own, same old thing

Lady Round the Lady (trad)

Lady round the lady (split the couple) and the gent follow

Lady round the gent and the gent also

Lady round 2 and the gent drop thru

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6: Two Couple Figures

Duck for the Oyster	Chase the Rabbit, Chase the Squirrel
Rip and Snort	Lady Round the Lady and the Gent Also
Roll the Barrel	Swing at the Wall
Mountaineer Loop	Reel the Reel
Four-leaf Clover	Mow the Wheat, Sow the Clover
Birdie in the Cage	You Swing Mine and I'll Swing Yours
Lady Ballonet, Gent Ballonet	2 Gents Right Elbow Swing
Right Hands Across	Rattlesnake Hole
Double Bow Knot	Georgia Rang-tang
Old Side Door	Ladies Sash, Gents Sashay
Take a Little Peek	Reach Right Back
Lady Round the Lady (Fig 8)	Peek-a-boo

7: Calling Squares

Know the square by heart, as you have to watch the key square and the whole room
Use squares that move along, have an interesting moment, good flow
Teach it quickly, well, so that it will work
Call before the key dancer meets his partner, to keep it moving
Music should step along
First square of the evening should keep partner, be successful, quick teach
You convey your love of squares and they will catch your enthusiasm
A quick walk-through with less than 100% success is better than a long, perfect walk-through
Call with the band, get your groove, feel it with your body

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8: Breaks

Grand right and left

Indian style

Half sashay, DSD next

Grand sashay

Al L, Ladies star, Gents walk R

Bumpy Daisy

Allemande X

Grand right & left, turn back

Weave the ring

Ladies center, gents sashay

Alamo style

Allemande L Corner, Al RP, Sw C

Ladies chain break

Allemande left with your left hand; Back to your partner with a right and left grand

- Hand over hand, go halfway round and promenade around the town
- Hand over hand around the ring, meet your partner with an elbow swing, all the way around, right elbow swing, on to the next, left elbow swing, etc.
- Hand over hand around you go, meet your partner with a do-si-do, pull by right, and on to the next with a see-saw, pull by left, etc (grand sashay)

Allemande left like an allemande X, pass one, swing the next

Put her on the right, allemande left this corner (former partner)...

Allemande left and the ladies star; gents walk right but not too far

Allemande left, go once and a half... and the gents star, ladies walk right but not too far

Allemande left your corner, Gr R & L, or Sw P

Allemande left like an Alamo style, right to your partner, balance a while

Balance in and balance out, turn on the right, go half about

Balance out and balance in, turn on the left, you're gone again

Repeat 2 & 3, but Sw P after the turn on the left

A break should complement the figure (ie. add swings if there are few in the figure), and contrast with the figure. If the figure is difficult, use an easy break.

Random or unexpected calls can also be very effective, as they make the dancers listen and keep them on their toes.

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9: Western Squares

Roll Away **Sets in Order** **Keeper**

A1 H F & B, R & L thru
A2 H cross trail around 2, lines at S, F8 & B
B1 Ladies roll away, gents roll away, center 2 roll away, all roll away
B2 Swing P

Phillupspace **Sets in Order** **Keeper**

Cpl #1 Bow & Swing, down middle, split the ring
around just 2, split the S
Cpl #3 Bow & Swing, down the middle, split the ring
around just 2, 4-in-line
F8 & B, all pass thru, turn alone, inside 2, R & L thru
F8 & B, Fwd again, box the gnat
Inside 4 RH star, once and a half to C all, Al L C

Missing Link **Frank Tyrell** **Keeper HSHS**

H cpls out to the R, lady in the lead, lady round the lady, gent follow
2 ladies to the ctr, R elbow G round the G with the lady in tow
2 gents to the center w/ a L elbow, pick up your own, star prom
Wheel out at home, don't be slow
Hs face L and the ladies chain, H straight across for a R & L thru, repeat 3x
Last time, H cross trail to a L Al...

Austrailian Whirlwind **Keeper H1S2H3S4**

Cpl #1 F & B, Al L C 1½ (Lad #4
and G #2, new H cpl) H cpls F & B,
cross trail, separate around 2 (4 Lad, 4 G)
Cir left, circle rightl 1 lady roll away, 2 ladies roll away,
3 ladies roll away, Al R P 1½, Al L C...

Funny Lines (Two-Faced Line) Doc Heimbach **Keeper** **HSHS**

H cpls F & B, pass thru, around 1 to line at S
F8 & B, ctr 2 pass thru to a funny line, Bal
Turn on outside hand 3/4, bal
Ctr 2 pass thru, cross trail, Al L C

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Western Squares

These are written as they were in *Sets in Order*, so drop the patter which doesn't fit, keep the action moving and have fun with them -- I have!

2 by 2 Harry Saxton, Charleston, WV Keeper SHSH

2 side gents lead out to the right, circle 3 hands round
Take that gal, put her on the R, on to the next, cir 3 hands round
Leave that gal, go on to the next,
Beside that gent you stand, keep him on your R and hold his hand
(1 & 3 are G, 2 & 4 are Lad)
1 & 3 F & B, 2 & 4 F & B (Gents F & B; Ladies F & B)
1 & 3 pass thru, around just 1, into the middle, let's have some fun
Cr trail thru to a L Al, R to P, R & L Gr, prom
1 & 3 F & B, 2 & 4 R & L thru, 2 H G lead out to R - (Lad are at the H)

Quickie Johnnie Barbour, Campbell, CA Keeper HSHS

1st & 3rd half sashay, up to the middle and back that way
Cross trail thru across the land, behind those side 2 cpls stand
Fwd up 8 and back to the world, outside cpls Cal Twirl
Everybody turn around, Al L and don't fall down

Cross Trail Break Sets in Order Keeper HSHS

H cpls half sashay, F up 8 & back that way
Lead to the R, up 4, H Lad break and form a line
F & B, you're doin' fine
All 4 G cross trail thru, around just 1, that's what you do
F 8 and back with you, 4 lad cr trail thru
Around 1, you're not through yet
Lad star R in the center of the set. G step in behind your date
RH star and star all, 8 Lad roll out around 1 man,
L to the next like a L Al, find your P for a R & L grand

Where'd They Go To Bud Keller, Tucson, AZ Keeper HSHS

1 & 3, here's what you do Lead to thru R, R & L thru
Power turn to the next old 2, with a R & L thru
wheel em around and face that cpl
Inside 4 turn right back (H Lad, S G); everybody L Al..

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10: Old-Time Squares

Roll Away **Sets in Order** **Keeper HSHS**

- A1 H F & B, R & L thru
- A2 H cross trail around 2, lines at S, F8 & B
- B1 Ladies roll away, gents roll away, center 2 roll away, all roll away
- B2 Sw P

Break:

- A1 L C, with P box the gnat, Lad star L
with P box the gnat, G LH star
with P box the gnat, pull by, A1 L C, Sw P

Geezy Peezy **Larry Edelman** **Keeper HSHS**

- H F & B, Sw opp, face S
- Cir L 1x, H rip & snort to a line
- F 8 & B, F again & box the gnat
- R & L thru the other way back
- Roll away w/ a half sashay, Sw P

Lady Round Lady Variation **Keeper HSHS**

- H cpls out to R, Lad in lead, split cpl
- Lad round L, G follow, Lads meet with a L elbow,
- G round G, Lads follow, G meet with a L elbow,
- Pick up P star prom to home, H face L
- H ladies chain to L, H R & L,
- New H Lad chain to L, H R & L
- (4x) 4th time, cross trail to C

Right Hand Lady **Keeper HSHS**

- H out to R, cir 4, H G home alone
- F6 & B, Lonesome G DSD
- SG RH Lady RH round, LH Lady, LH round
- DSD RH Lady, make a basket
- Fall out to Cir L, shoot
- H ladies home to Sw partners all

Phillupspace **Sets in Order** **Keeper CPI 1,3; 2,4; 3,1; 4,2**

- Cpl #1 B & Sw, down middle, split the ring around just 2, split the S
- Cpl #3 B & Sw, down the middle, split the ring around just 2, 4-in-line
- F8 & B, all pass thru, turn alone, inside 2, R & L thru
- F8 & B, Fwd again, box the gnat
- Inside 4 RH star, once and a half to C, A1 L C

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11: Dances

TicTacToe **Sets in order** **Keeper HSHS**

- A1 (H) Roll away with a 1/2 sashay, into the middle and back that way,
F again and box the gnat, do a R & L thru the other way back
- A2 Pass thru, separate, go round just 1 and into the middle with a R & L thru across the set,
- B1 (Still H) Pass thru, separate, go round just 1 to lines at the sides
F 8 & 8 fall back
- B2 F again and box the gnat, do a R & L thru the other way back
Roll away with a 1/2 sashay, there's your partner, swing away.

Southern Nights **Kathy Anderson** **Keeper HSHS**

- A1 H Ladies chain across, H pass thru separate, go round 1 behind 1 (H stand behind same
sex side person beside partner)
- A2 S zoom (cast away from P, stand behind H) H zoom, S zoom
- B1 H chain the ladies, power turn (extra 1/2 turn), to the outside, chain ladies, power turn, to
the middle
- B2 Chain the ladies, power turn, face the outside, right hand (to opposite sex person facing
you); balance, pull by right, pull by left
- C1 Sw P; Cir left 'til you get home.
- C2 F & B, Sw P

Teakettle **Ron Buchanan** **Keeper H1S2H3S4**

- A1 H cpls F & B;
pass thru, separate, go around 2, make lines at sides
- A2 F & B, pass thru, turn alone
- B1 Cpl #1 go down the middle; now come on back, cast off with the top one
- B2 Everybody F and Sw the one across from you; put her on the right and face up (lead cpls
home)
- C1 Follow the leader, ladies go one way, gents go the other way; top cpl start that grand old
right and left and right and left... (7 changes, keep going, pull by)
- C2 And right and left and right; Sw your P at home

Do-Si-Do and Face the Sides **Ted Sannella** **Mixer HHSS**

- A1 H cpls F & B; Do-si-do opposite and face the sides
- A2 Circle left lx; split the sides, go around 1 to lines at the sides
- B1 F8 & B; center 4 do a R hand star
- B2 Al L C, go 1½; outsides in with a R hand star, to your C
- C1 B & S C
- C2 Promenade to G home

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12: Easy Squares

Arkansas Traveler

Head 2 couples go forward and back
Turn your opposite by the right hand round
Partner by the left as she comes down
Your corners all with a right hand round
Partner by the left as she comes down
Promenade your corners all

Lee Owens' Sample

Honor your partners and corners all
Square your sets and listen for the call
Ladies to the center and back to the bar
Gents to the center and form a star
With right hands across and how do you do
Back by the left and how are you
Turn your partner with your right hand
Then your corner with your left hand
Back to your partner with your right hand
Grand right and left and a right and left grand
Meet old Sal, meet old Sue
Meet that gal with a run down shoe
And promenade two by two
Ladies turn back and swing a new man
And promenade as fast as you can
To the gents home place, swing her there
And all face in, form a square

Four in Line you Travel

1st couple out to the couple on the right
Four in line you travel (ladies hook elbows)
Gents turn back and swing your opposite
You swing mine while I'm gone,
I'll take yours and travel on (to #3, #4)

Right Hand Hi, Left Hand Lo

Head 2 couples balance and swing
And spin those gals to the right of the ring
Forward up six and back you go
2 lonesome gents do-si-do
Right hand hi, left hand lo
New lines of 3 and away we go (4x)
Swing your partner, Al L...

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Easter Ramble **Colin Hume** **Mixer** **HHSS**

H Sw P, Prom halfway
H cr trail, around 1, lines at S, F 8 & B
2 RH stars, ctr 4 LH star
DSD C, Sw C, Prom

Louisville Special **Ed Gilmore** **Keeper**

Cpl #1 down center, split #3, around 1 to line of 4, F 4 & B
Cpls veer R or L, split the sides, F 8 & B
R & L thru O & B
H DSD P, RH star, Al L C

On the Bias **Roger Whynot** **Mixer** **HHSS**

A1 HG & C Lad F & B; same 4 pass thru, turn alone
A2 Other 4 Sw C, face in, same 4 R & L thru
B1 Cir 8 halfway, Sw new P (C)
B2 Prom G home

Gents and Corners **Ralph Page** **Mixer**

HG w/ C F & B; same 4 cir L
LH star, Al R P, Al L C
Bal P, DSD P, Sw C, Prom G home

Back Home In Indiana **Ed Gilmore** **Mixer**

H cpls prom halfway around outside, lead to R
Cir 4, H G break to a line at S,
F & B, DSD opp, all pass thru, turn L 1/4
All Prom single file, Lad turn, Sw G behind
Prom to G home

Buffalo Quadrille **Mixer**

Cir R, Cir L
Bal, cpls wheel to face out; Bal, cpls wheel
Lad gr chain, back, Ct Lad, let her go
Prom next Lad to G home, Sw, F & B
Gyp P, gyp C, Sw P

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13: Patter Calls

Hi, low jack and the ace of spades
Meet your honey and promenade

Shingles on the roof and paper on the wall
Meet your honey and promenade all

Right foot up and the left foot down
Make that big foot jar the ground

First couple separate to the sides of the ring
It's a three-hand star with the right hand in
Gents to the center like an allemande thar
Back up boys in a right hand star

Chain those ladies across the set
Chain right back, you're not through yet

Don't you snicker and don't you laugh
Meet your partner with a once and a half

Corn in the crib and wheat in the sack
Meet your honey and turn right back

Go round that couple and swing at the wall
Go through that couple and swing in the hall

Bobwhite singing in the sugar cane
Promenade with your ball and chain

Ring the bell, ring the phone
Take your honey and promenade home

Your gal's pretty and so is mine
I'll swing your gal, you swing mine

Promenade single file
Ladies in the lead, gents run wild
Gents turn back and swing a while (4x)

Hurry on and don't be slow
Meet your partner and home you go

Meet your own with a smile
Weave the ring for half a mile

Allemande left and don't be late
Partner right and a right and left eight

That's all there is, there ain't no more
So take your gal right off the floor

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14: Bibliography

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