

Strange Mathematics in Square Dancing

Electronic Tips for Callers

Published by Tomas “Doug” Machalik

Issue 4

Surely, almost every caller is using calls divided into halves sometimes. For example, *Dosado Once and Half* is rather common. I would like to offer you an interesting concept based on this idea, provided that you accept a simple fact: that $1 + 1/2$ is not always equal to $1/2 + 1$. In other words, some calls can be used as a half of the call followed with the whole call (for example, *Scout Back Half and Once*), with the effect being different from using the same call once and half. The idea is based on applying the whole call in the formation that was set up with the first half of the call.

The following examples come from the Mainstream program. If you are missing some possibilities, even the obvious ones (for example *Half Sashay Half and Once*), the reason is probably the unpleasant body flow resulting from such combinations. However, if you can think of a nice combination which is not included below, I would be glad if you shared it with me.

- Quarter Tag: *Scout Back Half and Once* (the first part is equal to *Extend—Single Hinge*, resulting in Parallel Ocean Waves)

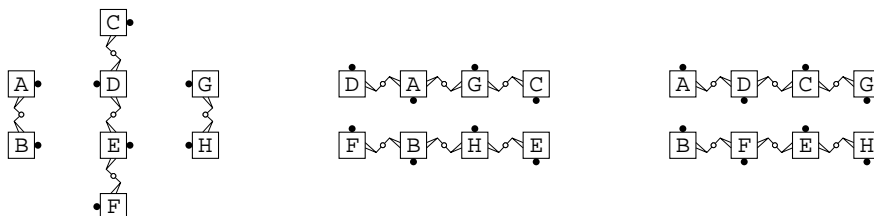


Figure 1: Right-Hand Quarter Tag: *Scout Back Half*; *Scout Back Once*

- Facing Dancers: *Turn Thru Half and Once* (the first part is equivalent to *Step to a Mini-Wave—Single Hinge*)

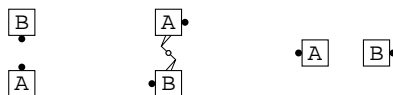


Figure 2: Facing Dancers: *Half Turn Thru*; *Turn Thru Once*

- Ends-Out Parallel Lines: *Ends Trade Half and Once* (we could use the same logic from Ends-In Parallel Lines as well; however, the space between both lines would not be sufficient for pleasant dancing the call)

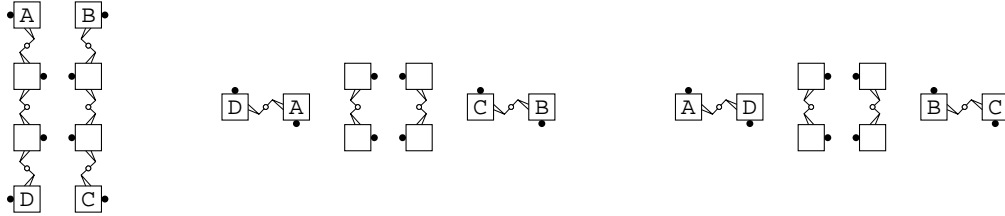


Figure 3: Ends-Out Inverted Lines: *Ends Half Trade; The same Trade Once*

- Out-Facing Lines: *Split Circulate Half and Once* (the first part is equal to *Half Partner Trade*, resulting in Parallel Ocean Waves)

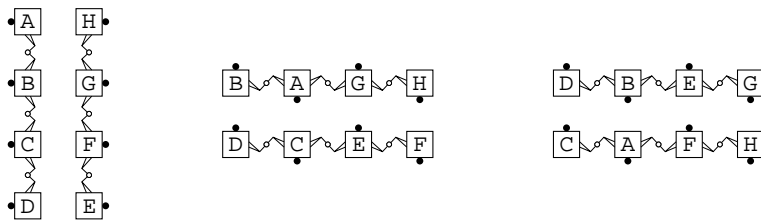


Figure 4: Out-Facing Lines: *Half Split Circulate; Split Circulate Once*

- Eight Chain Thru Formation: *Split Circulate Half and Once* (the first part is equal to *Step to an Ocean Wave*, resulting in Parallel Ocean Waves)

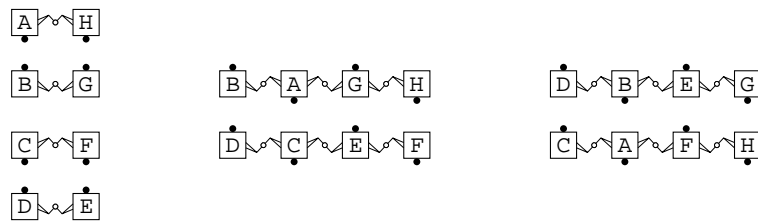


Figure 5: Eight Chain Thru Formation: *Half Split Circulate; Split Circulate Once*

- Columns: *Zoom Half and Once* (if both parts were used separately, dancers would have problems due to the lack of space in the middle; however, if the combination is performed as one smooth movement, the dancers finishing the call on the outside tend to leave more space for center dancers and it also flows better for them)

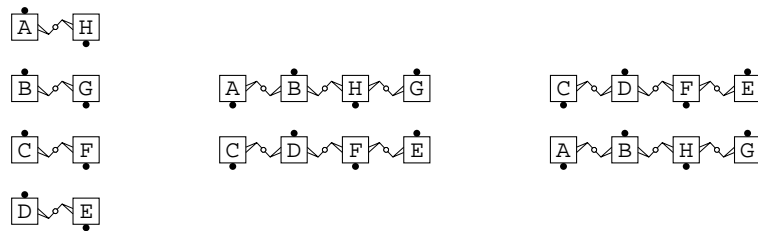


Figure 6: Right-Hand Columns: *Half Zoom; Zoom Once*

- Parallel Two-Faced Lines: *Bend the Line Half and Centers Go Once More*

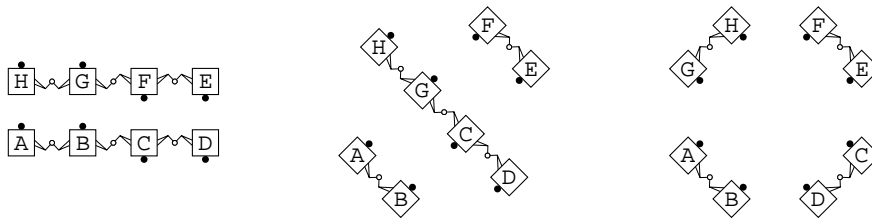


Figure 7: Parallel Right-Hand Two-Faced Lines: *All Half Bend the Line; Centers Bend the Line Once*

The idea of the last example (all do the half and some follow with the whole call) can be used with many other calls as well as expanded in several ways. However, it often takes too much time to say the call so the dancers need to stop and the flow goes away.

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Graphics: Created using **SDIA** (<http://www.square.cz/sdia/>). Many thanks!

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