

Promise of Spring

A Better Way to Explain Things

A1 and A2 in this dance can be challenging to teach. Knowing this, I tried to be very explicit in *Prime Calculated Figures* about what to do. It's now clear to me that all the excruciating detail I gave in the book just fogs things up. Here is an alternative way to explain it that relies more on people's natural sense of how to dance.

Explain things in two phases:

Phase 1: Have the men cross on the diagonal by the *right shoulder*. Then tell M1 to put out his hands and make a diagonal line of three with the two women facing the 2nd man. Lead the line forward and back. Then have the women do the same thing, *except* that they cross by the *left shoulder* and W1 makes the line of three with the two men.

Phase 2: Now add this wrinkle (I usually demo this taking the role of M2). Tell M2 that instead of going straight across to that top position, he should let M1 come across and pass him by the right and then dance *up the W's line behind W1* and cut across to the top on the other side. You can suggest that the women might want to weave a bit as they dance out to join M1 in line.

Then have the women do almost the same thing: W2, instead of going straight across to that top position, should let the W1 pass her by the left and then dance up behind the top man (who's actually her Ptr) and cut across to the top on the other side. Men can weave a bit as they dance out to join W1 in line.

This approach has worked very well for me. It confirms the idea that good dancers will fill in all the details as soon as you make it clear what you want.