

Suggestions on how to write a Line Dance Step Sheet

1. Dance Name:

- 1:1 Choose a good name which reflects the style of the dance and maybe the song title too.
- 1:2 Always search the Web to check that your chosen title has not been used before.
- 1:3 Remember that when someone is searching for your dance, it is better to have a unique title.
Placing punctuation in the title will make it more difficult for those searching for the script.

Examples: *Cowboy Cha Cha – Mothers Waltz – Tuscon Slide etc*

2. Choreographer Name:

- 2:1 The name or names should be clearly shown.
 - 2:2 Indicate your country - i.e. UK, Fr. Austria, Australia etc.
 - 2:3 Add the date that the dance sheet was released - i.e. May 2007, Jun. 07, etc.
 - 2:4 Contact details of web address, email or phone number
 - 2:4 Where applicable add the version number if the sheet has been amended after the release.
This will help instructors identify the correct sheet.
 - 2:5 Signing your final draft also qualifies that you are the author and that the sheet is deemed correct.
- Example:** *Choreographer: John Doe. Sydney, Australia. Jan. 2012. Version 2 - john.doe@google.com*

3. Music:

- 3:1 Name the title of the Song, Artist and Album (CD) name.
 - 3:2 Include the Beats Per Minute (BPM) of the music, and the total duration of the track. (3:46)
 - 3:3 If the music is difficult to get, then include information as to how the song may be legally obtained.
 - 3:4 If you have alternate music suggestions, include details of those too.
- Example:** *Music: Its now or Never by Chris Isaak. CD: Beyond the Sun – 127bpm (3:20) Available itunes*

4. Dance Information:

- 4:1 Nominate the number of walls (1,2 or 4) and the counts per sequence (wall) i.e. 32, 48, 64 etc
 - 4:2 Indicate if applicable if the dance is a phrased one.
 - 4:3 Include the Difficulty level – i.e. Beginner, Easy Intermediate, Intermediate and Advanced.
 - 4:4 Add the style if its not already included in the Dance Title – i.e. Line Dance, Waltz, Cha Cha etc.
 - 4:5 Indicate the direction the dance rotates from wall to wall – i.e. clockwise (CW) or counter clockwise (CCW)
- Example:** *4 Wall 32 count Intermediate Line Dance - CCW*

5. Intro & Start Position:

- 5:1 When introducing the dance to the song, indicate a count or time or both as a place to start the dance.
This starting point is very important information, as starting in the wrong place of the song will potentially offset the phrasing of the dance especially when it comes to any Tags or Restarts etc.
The time is also useful to the instructor when the count is difficult to determine and it's also sometimes not as obvious in deciding whether the dance is performed to the fast or slow beat.
 - 5:2 Indicate also the initial start position of feet and where the weight is placed.
- Example:** *Intro: 32 counts (24 secs) Start on Vocals. Feet Together, Weight on Left foot*

6. The Section Headings:

- 6:1 Keep the headings brief as they are a quick guide only.
 - 6:2 Use the descriptions of step groups in general use.
Display them as Bold or CAPITALS in order to be clearer for the reader & to distinguish the headings from the main step instructions. i.e. Coaster, Sailor, Lock Step, Monterey, Shuffle, Pivot Turn etc.
- Example:** ***Shuffle Forward, Step Recover, Coaster Back, Step Pivot***

7. The Step Instructions:

- 7:1 The steps are numbered, and the step numbers (representing the timing) should be separated by punctuation marks. This is usually by a Comma or Hyphen. – i.e. 3,4 or 3-4.
- 7:2 Where the dance has steps in between the main beats a '&' symbol is used.
Example: *3&4 Step instruction 3, Step instruction &, Step instruction 4*
In this case there are Three instructions which coincide with Three Timing numbers.
- 7:3 Insert a "Tab" between the step numbers and the step instructions. This helps with clarity.
Example: *1,2 Step right to right side, Close left beside right.*

7:4 Advise the reader regarding the direction they should be facing after each instruction involving a turn.

Example: 1,2 *Make 1/2 turn to right, Step forward on left (6:00)*

The (6:00) is the clock position relative to the start wall for that sequence and is best added at the end of the line where the turn is mentioned. This will also assist the instructor in confirming they have executed the turn correctly and are still on the right track.

7:5 Nominate the end of the sequence i.e. Begin again, Start again, Repeat from the beginning. etc.

This also segregates the main step instructions for Tags, Bridges and other items.

8. Tags, Restarts or Bridges:

8:1 The instructions should show where in the dance they occur and on which wall or after which wall.

8:2 The reader should be instructed on what to do at the end of the Tag etc.

Example: Restart the dance from the beginning, or, continue from step 16. etc.

9. Endings:

Some choreographers like to end their dances on the front wall. This sometimes involves a short sequence of steps to achieve that result. The steps should be described in the same way as the preceding main part of the dance.

Remember that the script is often the only information the dancer has available, so make it as clear, succinct, and well presented as possible. This will all help your dance to be adopted by the largest number of people.

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