

WHAT IS SSD DANCE (PART II)

SSD – Social Square Dancing is grabbing the interests of clubs and associations everywhere. There are currently dozens of zoom meetings taking place on-line, every month, with the sole topic of adapting SSD as the main dance program. Discussions are held at dance association meetings, caller meetings, and national dancer associations. Overwhelmingly, the response is favorable to SSD becoming THE DANCE LEVEL for all clubs.

What is SSD? Some folks have remarked that it is a “dumbing down” of what they danced pre-pandemic while others have remarked they were Mainstream dancers and didn't feel they could keep up with SSD. Two opposite sides of the spectrum.

The idea behind SSD is a dance destination that would take weeks instead of months for a brand new dancer to become a full club member. This is not a new idea. At the peak of our Modern Western Square Dance activity, classes lasted around ten weeks for folks to go from newbie to full club member. While most current dancers feel we can never return to the dancer numbers of our hey-day, many more believe that when we come back post-pandemic, we will need a quicker entry – like SSD – to survive.

Contrary to what some doubters have expressed, SSD is not any kind of step down. From firsthand experience, this writer will tell you it is a lively program that allows for many more opportunities to entertain dancers that we have had. By using fewer calls in the overall program, dancers are able to master the calls, dance them without hesitation, and be delighted in having those calls used in creative ways. Instead of squares breaking down over a dancer not remembering one of a hundred calls, squares move smoothly. Wind in your face dancing – that glorious feeling of being married to the music – can only be accomplished by not breaking down and not stopping every other call waiting for someone to catch up. Something veteran callers have discussed for many years has been trying to get our dancers to move smoothly with the music and SSD many finally provide a way to achieve this.

During this pandemic lockdown, most clubs are closed but there are areas where protocols allow for two couples to get-together. If you are able to have another couple join you in your home for a two-couple dance, then tune in to the buddy weaver music podcast broadcast on February 28, 2021. This episode will offer dancing SSD for two-couples. You can find the buddy weaver music podcast on iTunes, Google, or at the following web address: buddyweavermusic.podbean.com

Podcast episodes may be downloaded, free of charge. For more information on SSD, please send me an email at buddy@buddyweaver.com and I will help you.

Find me on facebook on the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue Star Square Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance Music, and Rawhide Square Dance Music.

Singing Calls

CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT

Gold Wing Records 193 by Ron McMurty

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Music Review March 2021 by Buddy Weaver

Dance beat is unusual. First stanza has a beat for every other step which changes to one beat per step after that. A familiar tune played with strong lead from a keyboard throughout. A Disney song that is played in a laid-back pop style. Tracks include music with and without lead.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Right & Left Thru – Sides Square Thru – Slide Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

WHERE HAS ALL THE COUNTRY GONE

HappyTrax Music 107 by Christian Sorge

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Music is chords played by guitar with more guitar work in the background. Song has a “Star Trek” theme about it. Music is laid-back in a pop style. Callers will have to know the tune.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Ferris Wheel – Cntrs Square Thru Three – Swing

YES INDEED

HappyTrax Music 108 by Mike Seastrom

Tempo: 130 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by organ throughout with electronic horns in the background. A fifties tune that's been covered by many famous singers. Music sounds like the classic Desert Gold band. Lively, pop style that dancers should enjoy.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couples Circulate – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Slide Thru – Square Thru Three – Swing

GET ALONG

Rhythm Records 374 by Gary Shoemake

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to follow with leads clearly played by keyboard, acoustic and steel guitars. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments. Banjo in the background throughout. A Kenny Chesney song that is played in country style. Middle of the energy scale.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Right & Left Thru – Sides Square Thru – Right Hand Star – Sides Star Left – Swing

BLACK VELVET

Rhythm Records 375 by Dee Dee Dougherty-Lottie

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Music Review March 2021 by Buddy Weaver

Good dance beat. A familiar tune clearly played by keyboard, electric and steel guitars. Lots of fills from the same instruments. A contemporary country song that is played in a driving country style. A good caller could make this rock. Tracks include music with and without harmony

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Flutterwheel – Slide Thru – Swing

THE SHAPE I'M IN

Royal Records 290 by Tony Oxendine

Tempo: 127 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads played by saxophone, organ, and guitar make the tune easy to follow. Lots of fill notes from keyboard, steel, and sax. A lively country rendition of a seventies pop song.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Spin the Top - Right & Left Thru – Flutterwheel – Sweep a Quarter – Swing

THOUSAND MILES FROM NOWHERE

Royal Records 630 by the Late Jerry Story

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to find with clear leads played by steel, mandolin, and harmonica. Lots of fills from guitar, harmonica, and fiddle. A Dwight Yoakam song played in country style. Mid-way up the energy scale.

Heads Square Thru – Square Thru – Bend the Line – Right & Left – Dixie Style – Boys Sashay – Couples Circulate – Promenade

WHEN DOVE CRY

SharpShooter 1063 by Leo Catt

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Leads are clearly played by various keyboard instruments. Electric guitar and more keyboard work in the background. The Prince pop song is done in pop style. Middle of the energy chart. Tracks include music with and without leads

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Bend the Line – Right & Left Thru – Pass the Ocean – Recycle – Swing

16TH AVENUE

Solid Gold Music 1036 by Tommy Russell

Tempo: 122 Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by harmonica, guitar, and piano. The same instruments provide lots of fill notes. A country song (Lacey J. Dalton) gets a laid-back country treatment.

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Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Pass the Ocean – Circulate – Boy Run – Promenade

COLOUR ME IN

Sting Productions 21804 by Ule Schingen
Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is easy to find with clear leads played by guitar, keyboard, and organ. The same instruments provide lots of fill notes. A pop song done in an exciting pop style. Tracks include music with various introductions.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Ferris Wheel – Square Thru Three – Swing

COLOUR MY WORLD

Sting Productions 21805 by Mike Davey and Laurina Collyer
Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by harmonica, steel, fiddle, and piano. Lots of fills from harmonica, steel, fiddle, and harpsichord. Lots of great music. A seventies Chicago song that is played in country style. Lots of good music – it's hard to go wrong. Adjust speed.

Heads Lead Right – Veer Left – Bend the Line – Reverse Flutter – Pass the Ocean – Boys Circulate – Swing Thru – Boy Run - Tag the Line – Girls U Turn Back – Swing

WHAT'S ANOTHER YEAR

Sting Productions 21808 by Maarten Weijers
Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Long saxophone introduction opens up to a good dance beat. Easy to follow tune with clear leads played by piano, saxophone, fiddle, clarinet, acoustic and steel guitar. Plenty of fill notes from the same. Sting always puts lots of musicians on their releases. An eighties pop song played in a country/jazz style. Key change on close adds energy. Tracks include two keys of music. Adjust speed.

Two figures

NO HOEDOWNS THIS REVIEW

AS Records (dealer)	asrecordshop.com
DoSaDo Music(dealer)	dosadomusic.com
Blue Star Music	buddyweavermusic.com
Gold Wing Records	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
HappyTrax Music	happytraxmusic.finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Rhythm Records	rhythmrecords.biz
Royal Records	royal-records.com

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SharpShooter	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Solid Gold Records	solidgoldrecords.net
Sting Productions	stingproductions.co.uk