

## SSD CONVERSATIONS

Recently, an on-line meeting of local dancer association leadership and prominent callers/teachers was held. This meeting produced many constructive thoughts on how square dancing will look when we are able to restart – post COVID-19 shutdown. There is tremendous support from both dancer leadership and callers for a destination program that would allow for non-dancers to become full club members in a much shorter period of time than it currently is. The most discussed “program” is SSD, Social Square Dancing.

Some folks have asked why SSD? After all it is not a “recognized program” as legislated by CALLERLAB. Why not Mainstream? Why not Basics? This article offers facts for the purpose of answering those questions.

1. SSD compared to Mainstream. To form the basis of this comparison, I will resource from CALLERLAB, the institution that founded Mainstream and has by committee, managed said program since its inception in 1976.

\* Mainstream has sixty-seven calls plus twenty-four subsets. An example of a call with a subset is Circulate that has five listed subsets of named dancers, couples, all eight, single file, split/box. Any veteran teacher will tell you this is not a single call to teach in one lesson; this is easily six different calls as split and box do not mean the same thing.

\* Mainstream recommended teach time is fifty-nine hours. With an average learning window of ninety-minutes, this requires forty weeks of consecutive teaching/learning. While this sounds simple, there is a problem that few are talking about – if the student misses one week they are no longer in consecutive learning. In reality, when missed classes are taken into consideration, whether missed by the student or missed because the hall was closed, the learning window must expand beyond fifty-nine hours. To properly learn Mainstream in a relaxed setting, it would take one-year.

\* By contrast, SSD has fifty calls in a recommended twelve-weeks. Use the above example of dancers who miss a lesson thereby expanding the learning window, you would properly learn SSD in a relaxed setting within three months. Furthermore, for the dancer who has missed, it is easier to catch up when the total number of calls is fifty versus sixty-seven plus twenty-four subsets.

2. SSD compared to Basics. Again, I will resource from CALLERLAB for this comparison.

\* Basics, comprised of A & B recommends forty-four hours to learn forty-eight calls plus twenty-one subsets (really sixty-nine calls). At ninety-minutes per class, this is thirty consecutive lessons.

\* SSD is again shorter in class time using fewer total calls. It also incorporates some of the more popular Mainstream calls that Basics does not.

More than anything else, SSD is not part of the CALLERLAB escalating program series. Basics has since its inception been a stepping stone to a higher program – Mainstream. In many parts of

the world, Mainstream is only a stepping stone into Plus. Whether or not the programs were meant to be used in this way, the reality is, they are. SSD may be our chance to “reset” this reality. SSD is a club level. It doesn't replace Mainstream or Plus. It isn't a tool to get people in the door then extend classes to make them Mainstream or Plus.

In just the same way that Mainstream clubs offer Plus tips and Plus clubs offer A-1 tips, then the SSD club can offer a Mainstream or Plus tip. We can keep Mainstream and Plus dancers happy in a dance setting while growing our clubs at SSD.

If you haven't read my previous articles on SSD, please visit [buddyweaver.com](http://buddyweaver.com) and click on the “articles” link. 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

### **MY HEART IS LOST TO YOU**

Arrowhead Recordings 1146 by Dean Singleton

Tempo: 126      Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Easy to follow tune with leads clearly played by accordion, guitar, and piano. The same instruments play lots of fill notes and harmony vocal is on every stanza. A Brooks and Dunn country song played in an exciting country style. Additional track has no harmony vocal and no leads in the music.

Heads Promenade Halfway - Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couple Circulate – Half Tag – Scoot Back – Swing

### **WHO'S CHEATING WHO**

HappyTrax Music 101 by Ron McMurty

Tempo: 130      Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is unmistakable with strong leads played by piano, steel and acoustic guitar. An eighties country song (Charly McClain) that is played in an exciting country style. Originally released on Gold Wing vinyl records. Adjust speed.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Square Thru Three – Swing

### **COMMON MAN**

HappyTrax Music 102 by Leo Catt

Tempo: 128      Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by piano, steel and acoustic guitar. An eighties country song (John Conlee) played in country style. Middle of the energy chart. Taken from Fine Tune vinyl records. Adjust speed.

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

**RIGHT OR WRONG**

HappyTrax Music 103 by Rod Shuping  
Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. The familiar melody is clearly played by a keyboard and steel. In the background, an electronic banjo drifts in and out. Also there are percussive additions adding a nice touch. Originally released on Desert Gold.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right - Circle to a Line – Right & Left Thru – Pass the Ocean –  
Girls Trade – Swing Thru – Turn Thru – Swing

**HOT STUFF**

HappyTrax Music 104 by the late Tim Marriner  
Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat with additional percussion throughout. Strong leads played by keyboard (or brass) throughout. An early modern dance song from Donna Summer that started square dancing in a direction away from it's traditional sound. This singing call is good presentation of the original song. Tracks include music with brass leads or keyboard leads. Originally done on Desert Gold.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Veer Left – Couples Circulate –  
Half Tag – Scoot Back Twice – Slide Thru – Promenade

**SWEET HOME CHICAGO**

Lou-Mac Records 318  
Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by guitar, organ, and piano make the tune easy to follow. Some really good piano work in the background. A blues song that dates back to the 1930's that is done in an exciting blues style. A caller could bring the house down with this. Tracks include music with and without melody played.

Heads Square Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Trade – Boy Run – Chain Down the Line – Pass the  
Ocean – Swing Thru – Swing

**THE NO TRUCK SONG**

Lou-Mac Records 323 by Ray Brendzy  
Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is clearly played by keyboard throughout. In the background is lots of acoustic and electric guitar. Musical drops offering a more percussive feel. An exciting country feel to this singing call. Tracks include music with and without leads.

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

**IF YOU GET THERE BEFORE I DO (LOVE ME)**

R&D Recordings 1023 by Chuck Simpkins

Tempo: 120 Rhythm: Shuffle

Unusual dance beat lightly played on every other step. Callers will have to judge for themselves if they are successful with this dance beat. Strong leads playing the tune from keyboard, acoustic and steel guitars. Harmonica in the background on some parts. A nineties country song (Colin Raye) done in a laid-back country style. Figure offers an eight-beat Promenade in sixteen-beats of music.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Eight Chain Six – Swing

**I DARE YOU**

R&D Recordings 1025 by Chuck Simpkins

Tempo: 120 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Tune is easy to follow with strong leads played by guitar, piano, and keyboard. A country song (Tim Faust) played in a laid-back country style. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

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

**WE DON'T TALK ANYMORE**

Solid Gold Music 517 by Bob Asp

Tempo: 124 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is clearly played by guitar, piano, and keyboard. Lots of strong fills from the same instruments. A seventies pop song (Cliff Richard) that is played in an exciting pop style.

Heads Lead Right – Pass Thru – Trade By – Right & Left Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Tag the Line – Girl Go Left; Boy Go Right - Swing

**BACK IN YOUR ARMS AGAIN**

Sting Productions 21801 by Wil Stans

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Strong leads played by accordion, fiddle, saxophone, and steel bring the tune out-front. The same instruments play strong fills. A country song (The Mavericks) played in a Cajun country style. Middle of the energy scale..

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Cntrs Pass Thru – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back – Swing

**MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I'M A LONDONER**

Sting Productions 21811 by Paul Bristow

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The melody is easy to follow with clear leads played by guitar, piano, and mandolin. The same musicians play lots of fills. This song goes back to the 1940's and is played in country style. A light and lifting feel to this singing call. Adjust speed.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Pass the Ocean – Cast Off Three-Quarter – Boy Run – Pass Thru – Trade By – Swing

**HOEDOWNS**

**DREAMLAND**, Arrowhead Recordings 915

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary sounding hoedown with music and fills from keyboard instruments, piano, and bass. Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" is clearly played. A laid-back hoedown

**HOT SUMMER 79**, Gold Wing Records 191

Tempo: 126 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. A contemporary feel with music from keyboard and guitar. Lots of music and a great hoedown rendition of Donna Summer's "Hot Stuff". Tune is clearly played.

**EVERLASTING LOVE**, SharpShooter 1046

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Another contemporary sounding hoedown with music from keyboard and electric guitar. From the seventies disco era (Carl Carlton), exciting disco feel with the tune clearly played. Multiple tracks included. Adjust speed.

**EXCELSIOR**, Sting Productions 21851

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

**SERENDIPITY**, Sting Productions 21851

Tempo: 128 Rhythm: Shuffle

Two hoedowns for the price of one. Both are contemporary renditions of the "Theme From Mission Impossible". Music from keyboard and guitar. Lots of energy in both. One track has more effects than the other. Adjust speed.

AS Records (dealer) .....	asrecordshop.com
DoSaDo Music(dealer) .....	dosadomusic.com
Arrowhead Recordings .....	arrowheadrecording.com
Blue Star Music .....	buddyweavermusic.com
HappyTrax Music .....	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Lou-Mac Records .....	lou-macrecords.com
R&D Recordings .....	randrecordings.com
SharpShooter .....	finetunegoldwingmusic.com
Solid Gold Music .....	solidgoldrecords.net
Sting Productions .....	stingproductions.co.uk