

## **LEARN SQUARE DANCING AT HOME**

Back in the late forties, many of the major record companies in the US discovered an audience looking for our activity. Square dancing had become popularized in movies, radio programs and the emerging television industry. There may not have been anyone in America who didn't know what square dancing was, not the stuff made up for comedy skits, but real square dancing with real callers. This was a unique time in our dance history, a large population that wanted to dance and not enough callers or clubs in the country to satisfy demand. In this state of affairs, record labels like Decca, Imperial, RCA and others found they could create a product that had a waiting market. Thus was born the square dance album.

Those early albums on 78-RPM shellac featured easy dance routines with instructions printed on the album cover. Many dancers had their very first exposure to square dancing in the living room of a friend's home with one of these records guiding them through the dances. By the early fifties, dedicated square dance record labels came into being, creating an even greater variety of "learn to square dance at home" recordings. There is little doubt that learn to dance albums played a part in the growth of square dancing, worldwide.

Buddy Weaver Music produces a weekly podcast that is available on all podcast apps (iTunes, Google, I Heart Radio, etc.) Taking an idea that is seventy-years old, BWM podcast has created an episode for everyone to learn square dancing at home. Calls are clearly taught then quickly turned into called patter. Enough calls are introduced to give a true feel of today's square dancing. Great emphasis is placed on comfortable dancing skills and the true essence of square dancing – the marriage of dancers to the music.

Using techniques mastered in the pandemic lockdown, the learn to square dance podcast is designed for ONE-COUPLE DANCING. This becomes an excellent resource for existing dancers to get their non-dancing friends to try square dancing. In the comfort and privacy of their own home, at a relaxed pace, set to modern music, produced to exacting studio quality. The learn square dance episode was released on April 18, 2021. Free, unlimited downloads are available at: <https://buddyweavermusic.podbean.com>

Please visit [buddyweaver.com](http://buddyweaver.com) for previous articles/reviews. On facebook through the following pages: Buddy Weaver, Blue Star Square Dance Music, New Hi Hat Square Dance Music, and Rawhide Square Dance Music. Send me an email: [buddy@buddyweaver.com](mailto:buddy@buddyweaver.com)

Singing Calls

## **MIDNIGHT CONFESSIONS**

Arrowhead Recordings 1149 by Tony Oxendine

Tempo: 128     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is easy for follow with clear leads played by piano, electric guitar, and keyboard. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments. A sixties pop song (Grass Roots) played in an exciting country/pop style. A good caller could make this rock. Tracks include music with and without leads/background vocals. Adjust speed.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Pass the Ocean – Extend – Girls Trade – Swing Thru – Spin the Top – Recycle – Square Thru Three – Swing

### **TRY A LITTLE KINDNESS**

ESP 748 by Bill Harrison

Tempo: 124     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. An easy to follow melody that is clearly played by piano, acoustic and steel guitar. The same instruments provide lots of fills. This was song and single of the year in 1970's country for Glen Campbell. Well played in an exciting country style.

Heads Flutterwheel – Sweep a Quarter – Pass Thru – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Half Tag – Scoot Back – Boy Run – Slide Thru – Swing

### **ON THE 8TH DAY**

Knee Deep Melodies 141 by David Gilroy

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. Clearly played leads by accordion, fiddle, and flute. The same instruments provide lots of fill notes. A Daniel O'Donnell tune played in a lively country style with a slight Irish flair. A happy song with a key change on close for energy boost.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Lead Right – Circle to a Line – Star Thru – Do Sa Do – Eight Chain Five - Swing

### **SON OF A SAILOR**

Rhythm Records 378 by Wade Driver

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. The tune is clearly played by guitar, harmonica, and mandolin. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments. The Jimmy Buffett song is played in a laid-back country style. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Star Thru – Pass Thru – Do Sa Do - Swing Thru – Boy Run – Ferris Wheel – Swing Thru – Boy Trade – Turn Thru - Swing

### **MY BABY LOVES ME**

Rhythm Records 379 by Wade Driver, Ashley Parker

Tempo: 124     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads are clearly played by guitar, mandolin, and keyboard. Lots of fills from the same instruments. A nineties country song (Martina McBride) played in country style. Middle of the energy chart. A unique feature is a track with music and male harmony along with music with female harmony. Should be a dancer pleaser.

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

**DON'T IT MAKE YOU WANT TO GO HOME**

Royal Records 633 by Tony Oxendine

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by piano, guitar, and flute. Lots of fills from the same instruments. Relaxing country feel with a key change on the close. In square dance circles, this is a familiar tune dating back to the sixties when it was first popular on Kalox Records. It was a favorite of the late Jerry Story and Tony has produced this release as a tribute to him. Well done.

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

**CAN'T YOU SEE**

Royal Records 737 by Jack Pladdys

Tempo: 130     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. The familiar tune is easy to follow with clear leads played by electric guitar, piano, and fiddle. The same instruments provide lots of fill notes. Rhythmically, lots of bounce to the ounce. Fast moving. The seventies song (Marshall Tucker Band) gets a lively country treatment.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Fan the Top – Recycle – Reverse Flutter – Pass the Ocean – Girls Trade – Boy Run – Promenade

**BABY BLUE**

Royal Records 736 by Jed Siegmann

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Easy to follow tune with clear leads played by piano, guitar, and harmonica. Lots of fills from the same musicians. The George Strait song is played in a relaxing country style. Key change on close adds energy. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Pass the Ocean – Extend – Girl Trade – Girl Run – Tag the Line – Cloverleaf - Boys Square Thru Three – Left Box the Gnat – Courtesy Turn – Promenade

**STEP BACK IN TIME**

Snow Records 22101 by David Cox

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Music is mostly chords played by keyboard instruments and electric guitar. Nice percussive feel but callers will have to know the tune. A recent pop song (Kylie Minogue) played in pop style. Mid-way up the energy scale. Tracks include music with and without background vocals.

Two figures

**ELENOR RIGBY**

Sting Productions 21906 by Paul Bristow  
Tempo: 127     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Good dance beat. A familiar tune clearly played by piano, guitar, and violin. Lots of fill notes from the same instruments and a sweet counter melody played by violin. Very percussive. What a great piece of music. The Beatles song gets an exciting country treatment. Tracks include music with and without harmony.

Heads Lead Right – Veer Left – Girl Hinge – Diamond Circulate – Flip the Diamond – Acey Ducey – Girl Run – Half Tag – Boy Run – Star Thru – Pass Thru – Left Allemande – Promenade

**THERE ARE MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS**

Sting Productions 21915 by Maarten Weijers  
Tempo: 124     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Clear leads played by guitar, piano, steel and mandolin. Lots of fills from the same instruments. A Johnny Nash song that gets a country music singing call. A slight calypso feel, rhythmically. Middle of the energy chart.

Heads Promenade Halfway – Square Thru – Right & Left Thru – Pass Thru – Trade By – Touch a Quarter – Scoot Back Twice – Swing

**SMALL TOWN SOUTHERN MAN**

Sting Productions 21912 by Tommy P. Larsen  
Tempo: 132     Rhythm: Shuffle

Good dance beat. Leads are lightly played by piano and keyboard. Guitar and piano drifting in and out of the background. An Alan Jackson song played in a relaxing pop style. Tracks include music with and without harmony. Adjust speed.

Heads Square Thru – Do Sa Do – Swing Thru – Boy Run – Couples Circulate – Chain Down the Line – Pass the Ocean – Circulate - Swing

Hoedowns

**CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'**, Arrowhead Recordings 918

Tempo: 126     Rhythm: Shuffle

Great dance beat. Music has a modern feel with music from keyboard instruments. The title melody is clearly played. Percussive instrument breaks and electronic drum rushes make the sound. Two versions offered, music with and without background vocals.

**SOUTHERN STREAMLINE HOEDOWN**, Knee Deep Melodies 140

Tempo: 122     Rhythm: Boom-Chuck

Great dance beat. A great country feel with music from dobro, piano, jaw harp, acoustic and steel guitar. Lots of fill notes around a clearly played melody (John Fogerty song). An up-beat hoedown. Tracks include called track by Chris Froggatt.

Music Review May 2021 by Buddy Weaver

AS Records (dealer) - [asrecordshop.com](http://asrecordshop.com)  
DoSaDo Music(dealer) - [dosadomusic.com](http://dosadomusic.com)  
Blue Star Music – [buddyweavermusic.com](http://buddyweavermusic.com)  
Knee Deep Melodies - [kneedeepmelodies.com](http://kneedeepmelodies.com)  
Rhythm Records - [rhythmrecords.biz](http://rhythmrecords.biz)  
Royal Records - [royal-records.com](http://royal-records.com)  
Sting Productions - [stingproductions.co.uk](http://stingproductions.co.uk)