

WHO'S ON FIRST?

This is a seemingly simple gimmick that was 20-25 years old when it was published by Calvin Campbell in the February 1993 *Community Dance Program Journal*. It is a take-off on the old Abbott and Costello routine about baseball. (It was also performed by Laurel and Hardy.) The player's have funny names. 'Who' is on first, 'What' is on second, 'I don't know' is on third.

Calvin Campbell said, "As the routine progresses, different people are in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th positions in the square. It makes the people think a little and usually produces a lot of laughter as people scramble around and try to remember where they are."

WHO'S ON FIRST?

From *Choreography Gimmicks* by Will Orlich

From a static set, on the call of "Who's on First", the #1 couple walks across the set into the #3 position, squeezes in between them and does a U-Turn Back. This forces everyone else to move around the square one position (1/8) to their right or to their left. Disregarding gender, the dancers form new #2, #4, and #1 couples squared up.

The next call is "Who's on Second" which tells the new #2 couples to walk across the set and squeeze in between the new #4 couple and U-Turn Back. Again, all the others shift over 1/8 position and square up (allow 4 counts for the dancers to respond). All dancers should start shifting to new positions as soon as the active couple starts across the set creating a vacant space.

The sequence proceeds with "Who's on Third" and "Who's on Fourth" and then repeats with "Who's on First" and "Who's on Second" again.

The routine can also easily be called directionally or with a combination of both. For example, you could call:

Who's on First? #1 cross the set and U-Turn Back, others move around.

Who's on Second? New #2 cross the set and U-Turn Back and so on.

Any six consecutive numbers will result in the set being back in order in a static square, but everyone is across from their original home. This means if you start with #2 then you proceed to #3, #4, #1, #2, #3.

Problem point — At the end of the first, third, and fifth times the square will end up with everyone in Half-Sashayed position. The couple going across the square will sometimes attempt to put the lady back on the right-hand side rather than doing a U-Turn Back.

Any three consecutive numbers will result in a setup with everyone with the opposite person and in Half-Sashayed position. A possible Get-Out from here is:

Heads Pass Thru and U-Turn Back ... Sides Pass Thru and U-Turn Back ...

All Four Ladies Chain into a Promenade (halfway around to home).

WHO'S TRADING FIRST?

This is a variation on the same idea. In this version the active couple goes across, squeezes in, and does a Partner Trade to face back in. All the others shift over as before. After four times through should be two couples of ladies and two couples of gents. Any eight consecutive numbers will square up the set.

From the Novelties section of teaching.callerlab.org