

GAMES -- USING PROPS

Rubber Band Dance

Construct a wide elastic loop about 12 feet (3.7 meters) long un-stretched. Place this loop around the entire square at waist level. Call as normal and let the dancers enjoy feeling and watching the elastic move clockwise or counter-clockwise or stretch and shrink as the choreography dictates.

Moonlight Dance

Find a place and opportunity where you can dance by the light of the moon. Alternatively adjust the lighting to provide a situation that simulates moonlight. The caller should make sure to have enough light to control the music.

Maypole Dance

The British May Day (May 1) tradition of dancing around a maypole is at least 600 years old. It is a celebration of the arrival of spring.

Create a pole at least eight feet (2.5 meters) long. Near the top attach eight long ribbons. (More can be used if desired, but it should be an even number.) Unless you have a firm support, designate someone to hold the maypole vertical with the ribbons at the top.

- Each dancer holds a ribbon. Traditionally Boys and Girls would stand in alternating positions as normal partner pairs. Here are some classic actions.
- All dancers face in as Normal Couples, Girls go forward toward the pole and back out, Boys go forward toward the pole and back out.
- Partners face each other, all dancers hold their ribbon in their left hand. With partner do three full around right-elbow turns. Dancers then U-Turn Back, take the ribbon in their right hand and do three full left-elbow turns.
- Next have the partners release their elbow connection and move forward individually (Boys in an inside circle going clockwise and Girls in an outside circle going clockwise. After going once around, everyone does a U-Turn Back and reverses their direction until back to their partner.
- Partners then begin the essential ribbon weaving action. This is accomplished by starting with a right shoulder pass to do a long Weave the Ring that will weave the ribbons down the pole an appropriate distance. Then everyone does a U-Turn Back and reverses their weaving to release the ribbons.

Using Long Sashes

This idea came from watching the presentation by the Quebec dancers before the 2006 Canadian National Square and Round Dance Convention in Montreal. The dancers were wearing traditional Quebec dancing attire and used their long waist sashes to create very complex maneuvers.

For a square dance novelty idea, obtain two sashes which are each long enough to hold across a squared set. Here are a few choreographic ideas for using two such sashes.

Begin in a squared set with the two head gents holding one sash and the two side gents holding the other sash.

-- All Eight Circle Left and Circle Right, face right and Single File Promenade,
Ladies Backtrack, Dosado Partner (raise the sashes), Promenade.

-- Raise the sashes high enough to allow a dancer to easily walk under it.
-- Four Ladies Chain over and back.

-- Four Ladies Lead Flutterwheel, Forward and Back,
Circle Left, Ladies In, Men Sashay, twice and end the Circle at home.

-- Circle Left, Gents Star Right with Left hand holding the sash over their head.
Pass Partner and change sash hands, Allemande Left, Weave the Ring,
Dosado with Partner, Promenade

Side Gents pass their sash to the Head Lady beside them. Raise the sashes.

-- Sides Right and Left Thru, Sides Flutterwheel, Sides Reverse Flutterwheel.

-- Sides Pass Thru and Separate Around One to a Line, Forward and Back

-- Sides Star Thru (Heads make space in the center) and Circle Left to Home

Heads Pass their sash to their Corner. Raise the sashes.

-- Heads Pass the Ocean, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Wheel and Deal, and Pass Thru

Heads Split Two and Separate around one,

Heads come down the middle with a Right and Left Thru to home.