

Kaleidoscope Squares

By Gloria Roth, written about 1970

The following is a new formation of Square Dancing that I created and am having great luck presenting. Its level is unlimited and the dancer's reaction is one of amazement, followed by appreciation, then tremendous satisfaction . . . It is the first time in 19 years of calling that I have had dancers respond vocally . . . with no allemande lefts!

I have named it **Kaleidoscope Squares**, because the different, ever changing patterns formed and evolved by the variety of movements called, cause the dancers to appear in a variety of symmetrical patterns.

SET UP: Four Squares, one inside another, so that on each quadrant of the over-all square, there is a complete square.

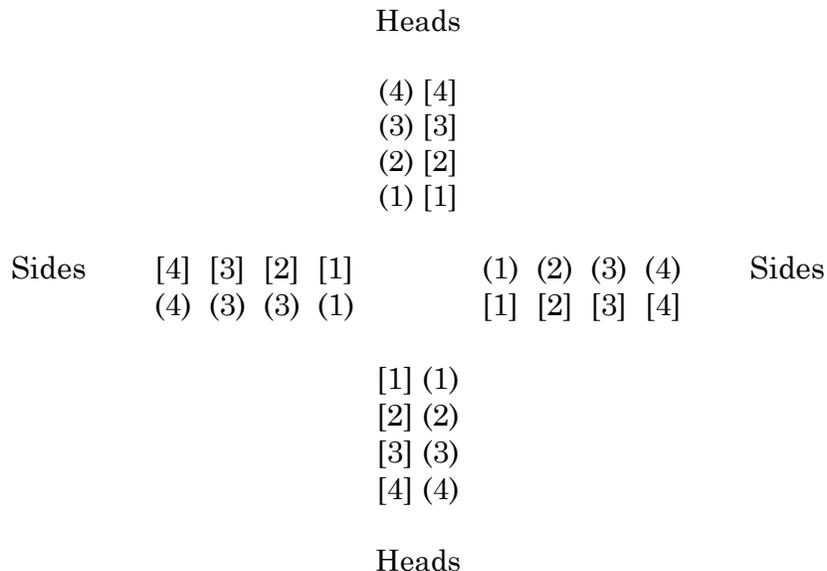
Each concentric square is numbered from the center-outward as:

- SQUARE ONE (Inside Square);
- SQUARE TWO (Behind Square One);
- SQUARE THREE (Behind Square Two); and
- SQUARE FOUR (The Outside Square).

Each dancer understands as part of the Ground Rules, that they will be referred to in the actual calling, as: Ones – Twos – Threes – or Fours.

Dancers are never to cross through the inside square (ONE) **unless** told to. Their individual square of four couples or any they move into, ends at its own perimeter – unless otherwise directed.

Diagram of Starting Formation



Example figures from Gloria Roth (some modernization of calls):

1. Ones and Threes California Twirl, Star Thru, Pass Thru, On to the next

Right and Left Thru, Square Thru three-quarters, On to the next

Star Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Wheel and Deal,
Star Thru, Pass Thru, On to the next

Right and Left Thru, Square Thru three-quarters, On to the next

Star Thru, Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru
Ones and Twos do a California Twirl (Now back in original Set-Up)

Note: This first 'warm up' patter shows only the unending possibilities of working around the edges. The level of the dancers' ability is the extent to what a caller can call . . . making this a good answer to 'Levels' of dancing. An experienced 'floor' can dance more patterns and succeed, than a less experienced 'floor' but both will thrill to the unusual way they are moving . . . regardless of moves called!

2. Heads Quadruple Pass Thru, then Cloverleaf
Sides Quadruple Pass Thru, then Cloverleaf
Repeat four times to reform Original Square

Note: This pattern is unbelievable to watch! Also, for some reason I haven't yet analyzed, **very** thrilling to dance for even our most experienced dancers.

3. Ones and Threes do a California Twirl, start a Giant 32 Chain Thru
Ground Rules: As in an Eight Chain Thru:
 - a. Dancers will end where they began.
 - b. When facing out, men will courtesy turn the girls, counting the turn as a left hand. There will be four points, instead of two, when men will turn a girl.
 - c. Start with right hands and alternate hands.
 - d. In Kaleidoscope Dancing, the 32 Chain Thru finds the men working to their left, the girls working to their right around the edges of the whole group.
 - e. Unlike Eight Chain Thru – never cross through the center of the squares. When dancers find themselves facing the center, they turn away from their partners and continue on periphery.To end the 32 Chain Thru so they are all facing in again, the Get-Out is:
Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru, Ones and Twos do a California Twirl.

Note: When the dancers return to their own spot, and realize they have completed it, they start a 'roar' a few spots from their own, which builds up to great excitement by the time they are actually in home spot!

4. Face the one beside you and Touch 1/4, Single File Circulate four times,
Boys Run, California Twirl,
Face the one beside you and Touch 1/4, Single File Circulate four times,
Boys Run, California Twirl.
(Back home at this point)

5. Heads Quadruple Pass Thru, Peel Off and make a line of eight,
Sides Quadruple Pass Thru, Peel Off and make a line of eight,
Everybody Bend the Big Line and Star Thru,
Heads Quadruple Pass Thru, Peel Off and make a line of eight,
Sides Quadruple Pass Thru, Peel Off and make a line of eight,
Everybody Bend the Big Line and Star Thru (Back in original Set-Up).

At the end of the workshop on Kaleidoscope Squares, or at any point during or before, a caller can put each square into an individual Square on each quadrant of the Giant Kaleidoscope by calling something like the following. (This is a simple example – there are as many ways to do this as there are minds to conceive them!)

Ones, Twos, Threes do a California Twirl,
Fours Dive Thru one couple,
The dancers in the middle Circle Left 3/4.

Then you are ready for any singing calls with each square properly ‘squared up’ as Heads being one and three, Sides being two and four, in sequence.

One way to set up the Kaleidoscope Starting Formation is to arrange four squares where the arms will be. Then call something like this:

Each square Circle Left until Couple One is back to the Center of the Kaleidoscope.
Couple One California Twirl, Couples Two and Four Lead Left,
Couple Four Arch and Couple Three Dive Thru.

SOME OTHER IDEAS FOR KALEIDOSCOPES:

From Will Orlich:

Ones and Threes Trade, Star Thru, Pass Thru, On to the next, (diagonal star)
Right and Left Thru, Flutterwheel and Sweep a Quarter,
Zero: (Swing Thru, Centers Run, Wheel and Deal,)

Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru, Centers Pass Thru
Square Thru three-quarters, Trade By, Square Thru,

Walk ahead to a new two and Star Thru (new arm position)
Swing Thru, Boys Run, Couples Circulate, Wheel and Deal,
Dive Thru, Centers Pass Thru, Star Thru, Square Thru 5 hands

On to the next and Star Thru (diagonal star)
Zero: (Dosado to a Wave, Scoot Back, Boys Trade, Boys Run, Wheel and Deal)
Square Thru and walk ahead

With a new two and Star Thru (original Eight Chain Thru position with partner)
Right and Left Thru, Dive Thru, Ones and Twos California Twirl (back in the arms)

Mainstream Kaleidoscope Square Ideas from Bill Eyer and Others

1. Couples 1 and 3 California Twirl, Eight Chain Four, Pass Thru, Trade By, Pass to the Center, Centers Pass Thru, All Star Thru and Pass Thru, Move on to the next group (making a diagonal star) Pass the Ocean, Recycle, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line, Pass Thru, move on and Slide Thru (back to original Eight Chain Thru formation) Couples 2 and 4 California Twirl, All face in and Slide Thru.
2. Couples 1 and 3 Partner Trade, Slide Thru, Pass Thru, move on to diagonals, Touch 1/4, Each Four Walk and Dodge, Partner Trade, Touch 1/4, Walk and Dodge, Move on, Slide Thru (new Eight Chain Thru formation) Swing Thru, Spin the Top, Right and Left Thru, Pass Thru and move on to diagonals, Slide Thru, Touch 1/4, Scoot Back, Scoot Back again, Boys Run Move on and Touch 1/4, Boys 1 and 3 Run, Girls 2 and 4 U-Turn Back (returned to the original arms).
3. All Face In and Pass Thru, move on to diagonal arms Box the Gnat and Pass Thru, Tag the Line and Face In (turn toward those in your arm), Pass Thru and move on (new Eight Chain Thru formation), Box the Gnat and Pass Thru, Tag the Line and Face Out (turn away from those in your arm), Move on and Square Thru five, Move on and Slide Thru (returned to the original arms).

Flourish in the Arm

4. Zoom (in your group of four), Zoom again, Face in, Star Thru, Grand Zoom (lead couple goes all the way back), Grand Zoom again, Lead Couple California Twirl, others make arches, Outside couple Dive Thru 3 (Couples at both ends California Twirl to face in) New Outside Couple Dive Thru 3 but divers do not California Twirl, All 3 other couples do a California Twirl (returned to the original arms)