

Bows & Beaus
Keith Ferguson
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Load the Boat

Load the Boat is a popular Plus call that is most often used from Normal Facing Lines. The call has an “Ends Part” and a “Centers Part,” which are completely different! Therefore, when hearing “Load the Boat” dancers need to quickly determine whether they are an “end” or a “center.”

The End Dancers work around the outside, working with the other End Dancers, ignoring the Center Dancers.

The Center Dancers work in the middle, working with the other Center Dancers, ignoring the End Dancers.

“Ends Part” of Load the Boat

Description: The four end dancers move forward around the outside, passing right shoulders with *three* end dancers, and then turn one-quarter in (90°) to stand beside the third person passed, facing the center of the set as a couple.

Notes on the Ends Part:

- The ends need to move quickly around the outside, leaving ample space in the center for the center dancers to do their part.
- *Count* the end dancers you pass, and then face in *immediately* after passing the *third* person. That person will be your new partner.

“Centers Part” of Load the Boat

Description: The center four dancers:

- Pass Thru
- Turn away (turn your back on the *center* dancer who is beside you)
- Partner Trade (with your *new* partner)
- Pass Thru

Notes on the Centers Part:

- Before starting the call, identify the center dancer beside you!
- Some dancers find it helpful to “tap hands” with the person beside them after each of the four parts.
- Concentrate during the second part of the call (turning *away* from the other *center* dancer). *Remember*, you are only working with the other *center* dancers. After the initial pass thru (with the dancer *facing* you), identify the *center* dancer *beside* you, turn your back on that dancer, and continue turning that *same* direction as you do the partner trade. Then do the final pass thru.
- ***Keep it tight in the center!*** This is especially true on the initial pass thru, where you should just barely pass thru before turning. This will make it easier to find your *new* partner for the partner trade.