

Bows & Beaus

Keith Ferguson's hints on Relay the Deucey

Relay the Deucey (helpful hints)

Relay the Deucey is a Plus move that many dancers find especially enjoyable! It is a very smooth flowing and well-timed move -- for about 10 seconds (20 beats of music) you can just dance! But, of course, first you must learn the move, and that does take a little effort.

Here are some hints that you may find helpful as you learn this move.

Note that these hints assume you are starting from right-hand ocean waves with the ladies in the middle, the most usual starting position.

The Sequence

1/2 by the Right, 3/4 by the Left,
1/2 by the Right, 1/2 by the Left,
1/2 by the Right, 3/4 by the Left.

These are all "if you can" hand turns, meaning that you only do the part if you are holding someone by the appropriate hand. **No one** will do all six of these hand turns, but you should watch others do the parts that you are not doing. Don't be afraid to "chant" these as you do the move: "**1/2, 3/4. then 1/2, 1/2, then 1/2, 3/4.**"

Magic Right Hand

As you start a Relay the Deucey, notice whom you are holding by the right hand. You will be looking for that person and that hand *twice* during the move! Keep an eye on that person (and that hand) as you do the move -- when that hand becomes "free" at the end of a wave, be prepared to again join your right hand with that same person's hand.

Keep Moving

This is particularly true for the ladies. Relay the Deucey is a very well-timed move. As you see the man's "magic right hand" (see above) get to the end of the wave, you must be in position to join hands with him to begin the next hand turn.

Knowing When it is Finished!

If you say the sequence (above), you probably won't have any problem. But if you do get lost, the ladies should know that when you meet the same lady you started with you just cast 3/4 by the left and then you are done.

Some Additional Hints

- Once the wave is established across the center:
 - No one is allowed to "cut in" to the middle of the wave (you can only join the wave at the end).
 - You can only leave the wave at the end of the wave.
- Relay the Deucey will "feel" like two completely different moves depending on whether you are facing in or out at the beginning. Don't let this fool you. Just follow the sequence and other hints given above, and you should come out correctly.
- You should always end up diagonally across the square from where you started, and holding the same person by the right hand. The only effect of a Relay the Deucey is to rotate the entire square 180 degrees.
- If you are in facing couples at the beginning (instead of in waves), just step to a wave first, and then execute the move.

For Those That Want to Know More!

Relay the Deucey can be done from either right- or left-handed waves, and with the men and women starting from any position in the waves. However, any starting position other than right-hand waves with the men on the end is considered an Extended Application of the move. We don't usually have time in a beginning square dance class to teach all these variations, but they may be shown at club dances after the class finishes.

- If you are in a left-hand wave, just reverse all the references to right and left in the above hints.
- In the above hints, "ladies" refers to those starting in the middle of the waves, and "men" refers to those starting on the ends of the wave (the usual starting position).