



Larrys Corner

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This is called Larrys Corner because when I teach I stand in the corner so I can see everyone.

If you want to read dance stories they are under Headlines or Larrys Corner.

[Http://www.comedancewithus.com](http://www.comedancewithus.com) Or
<http://www.dancempls.com>

Larry L Ablin : 612-599-7856
lablin@charter.net

Barb Johnson : 612-599-9915
westcoast1@charter.net

Do you have any likes or dislikes, stories, or helpful hints for dancing? If so, write it down and give to Larry Ablin or Barb Johnson. We will add it to one of the future News letters.

If you would like to tell us how you became interested in dancing, write it down and give to Larry or Barb, we will add your picture with it and put it in one of the future Newsletters. If you have anything you would like to write about, just write it up and give to Barb or Larry. I enjoy writing something for you.

Come Dance With Us

Collision avoidance!

walk forward and back

Eg: Man

1 : step forward left and shift weight forward

2 : step forward right and shift weight forward

3 : no foot work left but shift weight back

4 : step backwards right and shift weight back

5 : step backwards left and shift weight back

6 : no foot work right but shift weight forward

This movement gives a rocking motion that will hopefully avoid collision. Provided you see it soon enough to react.

Waltz Technique

Oh no, not a waltz! Let's sit this one out: I've got the wrong number of legs for it. I can't waltz — or I don't **want** to waltz; it makes the backs of my legs ache. People have a lot of excuses.

I'll grant you that some waltz dances aren't much good; I don't think ladies chains and right & left through work all that well in waltz time. But there **are** some beautiful dances in waltz time, and you will become much keener on waltz dances once its discovered you can waltz after all! The other aspect of course is a free waltz — no caller, just you and your partner. If you go to a contra dance or an English (Playford-style) dance in the States they always finish with a waltz; at some places the dancers demand a waltz at the end of the first half too, and they're all out there doing it and loving it. They'd be appalled at the idea of finishing with a

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polka the way they do in England!

When people say “I can't waltz”, they're probably thinking back to their ballroom dancing days. But a ballroom waltz is quite a different animal from a country dance waltz. For one thing, it's a lot slower. For another, you spend almost the whole time in ballroom position. But the crucial difference is that a ballroom waltz is made up of three steps. The man steps forward with his left foot, then he takes his right leg forward and to the side, then he closes left to right. In the next bar he steps backward on his right, and it's the lady's turn to step forward on the left.

The old time waltz is quite different; it's sometimes described as a “one-step waltz”. You still do three steps: right, left, right — but the second and third are pretty much on the spot; the first step is where you do most of the traveling. It really **isn't** forward-side-together; it's step-two-three, step-two-three. If you concentrate on the first step and let the other two just happen, you'll find the whole thing much easier. Turn your shoulders and your feet will follow — it sounds silly, but it's absolutely true.

But make sure you actually **do** all three steps, even if 2 and 3 are just a transfer of weight. I've seen people (men actually) who instead of 1-2-3, 1-2-3 do right-left-pause, right-left-pause — that's not a waltz, it's a limp. And other men who are obviously thinking: “I hate waltz dances — I hate everything about them — I **will** not walk in time with the music — I'll pretend it's a reel instead.”

Go down onto a flat foot for beat 1, and up on the toes for beats 2 and 3.

A lot of waltz dances, such as Nan's Waltz and Waltz Country Dance, have various figures and then finish with waltzing round the other couple. This is where the men really panic, because they're supposed to be dancing **with** someone. So here are four bits of advice, chaps:

First, hold your partner close: you can't waltz with someone if you're keeping her at arm's length and trying to pretend she's not with you.

Secondly, don't think of the first step as being out to the side; think of it as stepping **round** your partner. Usually the man starts with his left foot and the lady with her right. So in the first bar the man is moving round the lady, while she's not traveling much at all; on the second bar the lady does the moving. Whichever sex you are, make sure that the traveling is done on the left foot, and that you're going **round** your partner.

Thirdly, you don't have to turn all the time. You could do two steps in a straight line, with the man going forwards and the woman backwards, and then two steps to turn all the way, and repeat this as often as you like.

And **finally**, give a firm hold with your right hand on her back and **lead** her, for heaven's sake. That's why the ballroom position is the way it is. It's the man's right hand that controls the woman, not the one that's sticking out in front — you can let go with your left hand and still waltz well. It's much harder for the woman to control things with the hand on your shoulder. And she won't mind which foot you start on or which way you go, provided you show her that **you** know what you're going to do.

For waltzing round, practice setting on the spot. Now rotate as you do it. Now with a partner.