

Callerlab 2022
Pittsburgh, PA
Presented by Michael Preskitt

Sicilian Circles and Trios

Sicilian Circles

The Sicilian Circle is a dance form that involves facing couples arranged in a large circle, like spokes on a wheel. One couple is facing clockwise and the other is facing counter-clockwise. The man's position is on the left side of the partnership.

The length of the dance pattern depends on the music phrasing. If the phrase is 64 beats long, then the dance pattern, or figure, is also 64 beats. At the end of the figure, each couple progresses past the couple they've been dancing with, and moves on to the next couple, where the figure is repeated. The direction of the progression is always the same for each couple.

Usually, the Sicilian Circle is just that; a large circle. However, a small crowd or lack of space may require changing the layout of the dance. In this case, the format can be facing couples arranged in columns. One couple faces the back of the hall, and the other faces the front. If at the end of a figure a couple progresses to an empty space, they would simply wheel around to face back into the column and wait for the figure to complete. At that time, a new couple will appear.

Here are a couple of examples of Sicilian Circles.

First Night Sicilian Circle (Calvin Cambell, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 226)

Intro	----	Turn the opposite Right Hand Around
1-8	----	Turn the opposite Left Hand Around
9-16	----	Join hands and Circle Left
17-24	----	Circle Right
25-32	----	Two men (left ends) Turn by the Right
33-40	----	Two ladies (right ends) Turn by the Left
41-48	----	Everybody Forward and Back
49-56	----	1's arch and 2's duck under on to the next
57-64	----	Turn the opposite Right Hand Around

Sicilian Circle #37 (Jerry Helt, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 232)

Intro	----	-- Circle Left
1-8	----	-- Circle Right
9-16	----	-- 2 Ladies Chain
17-24	----	-- Ladies Chain back
25-32	----	-- Star Right
33-40	----	-- Star Left
41-48	----	-- Promenade once and a little bit more
49-56	----	----
57-64	----	On to the next and Circle Left

The Sicilian Circle dance form also lends itself to two-couple square dance figures. It can be a useful tool for practicing a particular figure, with variety added by progressing to a new couple at the end of each set.

Here is an example.

Intro	----	-- Pass the Ocean
1-8	-- Spin the Top	----
9-16	-- Spin the Top	----
17-24	-- Right & Left Thru	----
25-32	Flutter Wheel --	----
33-40	Reverse Flutter --	----
41-48	Ladies Chain --	-- Pass the Ocean
49-56	-- Recycle	-- Square Thru 3
57-64	----	On to the next, Pass the Ocean

Trios

Trios are similar to Sicilian Circles in that the dancers are arranged in a large circle, like spokes on a wheel. Instead of facing couples, trios consist of facing lines of three dancers. At the end of each figure, each line progresses to a new line of three dancers, and the figure repeats. Alternatively, the lines of three dancers can all go in the same direction.

Typically, if the line consists of two gents and one lady, or vice versa, the “single” dancer is placed in the center position of the line. Trios are also useful if the balance of gents and ladies is considerably uneven, or the group is all one gender. For this reason, the actions that a particular dancer takes as part of the figure are based on their position in the line, rather than their gender.

As with Sicilian Circles, if the crowd is too small or the hall is too narrow to form a circle, the lines can face up and down the hall.

Here are a couple of examples of Trios.

Wild Turkey (Bob Howell, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 210)

Lines of three facing counter-clockwise

Intro	----	-- All walk
1-8	----	----
9-16	----	Right hand person Right Hand Around
17-24	----	Left hand person Left Hand Around
25-32	----	Centers forward and all walk

To add a little variety, the end dancers can close ranks as the center dancer moves forward, forcing that person to move to one end or the other. This will result in a new center dancer for the line.

Taos Trio (Ken Kernan, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 222)

Lines of three facing lines of three

Intro	----	-- Ends DoSaDo
1-8	----	-- Centers DoSaDo
9-16	----	Centers Lead Right & Circle to a Line
17-24	----	-- Forward & Back
25-32	----	New centers Lead Right & Circle to a Line
33-40	----	-- Forward & Back
41-48	----	New centers Star Right with the right hand two
49-56	Lead your line home --	Pass Thru to a new three
57-64	----	-- Ends DoSaDo