

Callerlab 2023
Reno, NV
Presented by Michael Preskitt
Quadrilles

Quadrilles are considered the ancestors to modern square dancing. The set consists of four couples, arranged in a square formation, with each couple facing the center of the set. The man's position is on the left side of the partnership. Originally, quadrilles were formal, elaborate routines that required extensive dance knowledge imparted by dance masters. The figures used in this presentation will draw from current square dance terminology.

The music used for quadrilles can be many varieties; jigs, reels, or any piece of music that has consistent phrasing. Tempo should be around 125 to 128 beats per minute, with a strong beat that the dancers can hear. The length of the dance pattern depends on the musical phrasing. If the phrase is 64 beats long, then the dance pattern, or figure, is also 64 beats. There may or may not be partner changes throughout the dance, depending on the figure.

In regards to timing of the prompts, commands should be given just before the dancers are expected to take the first step of the figure. The dancers should then be given enough time to complete the move, with the next command coming about 2 beats before the end of the current move. While contra timing is pretty strict, quadrille timing can be a little looser because of the size of the set. With that in mind, however, the examples shown here are timed out to allow the dancers to complete the moves with a little practice.

Here are a couple of examples of Quadrilles.

Queen's Quadrille (Jerry Helt, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 125)

Intro		<i>Head couples Right and Left Thru</i>
1-8	----	Same 2 Ladies Chain
9-16	----	Side couples Right and Left Thru
17-24	----	Same 2 Ladies Chain
25-32	----	All join hands and Circle Left
33-40	----	-- Corner Swing
41-48	----	--- Promenade
49-56	----	----
57-64	----	Side couples Right and Left Thru (alternate Heads and Sides)

Intro, Break and Ending for music that repeats seven times

Intro		-- <i>Four Ladies Chain</i>
1-8	----	Four Ladies Chain back home
9-16	----	-- Circle Left
17-24	----	-- Allemande Left
25-32	----	-- Right and Left Grande
33-40	----	----
41-48	Partner Swing --	-- Promenade Home
49-56	----	----
57-64	----	<i>Return to figure</i>

Tip Top Quadrille (Don Armstrong, *Dancing For Busy People*, pg 123). The timing for this dance is very tight, so keep the formation small.

Intro		<i>Men roll out (left), promenade 1/2</i>
1-8	----	Ladies roll out (right), promenade 1/2
9-16	----	-- Partner Do Sa Do
17-24	----	Men Star Left in the middle
25-32	----	Pass by Partner, take the next lady
33-40	-- To the man's home	-- 4 Ladies Chain
41-48	----	Keep this lady and Promenade
49-56	----	----
57-64	----	Men roll out (left), promenade 1/2

Intro, Break and Ending for music that repeats seven times

Intro		<i>Four men Promenade inside</i>
1-8	----	-- Partner Swing
9-16	----	-- Circle Left
17-24	----	-- Allemande Left
25-32	----	-- Right and Left Grande
33-40	----	----
41-48	Partner Swing --	-- Promenade home
49-56	----	----
57-64	----	<i>Return to figure</i>