

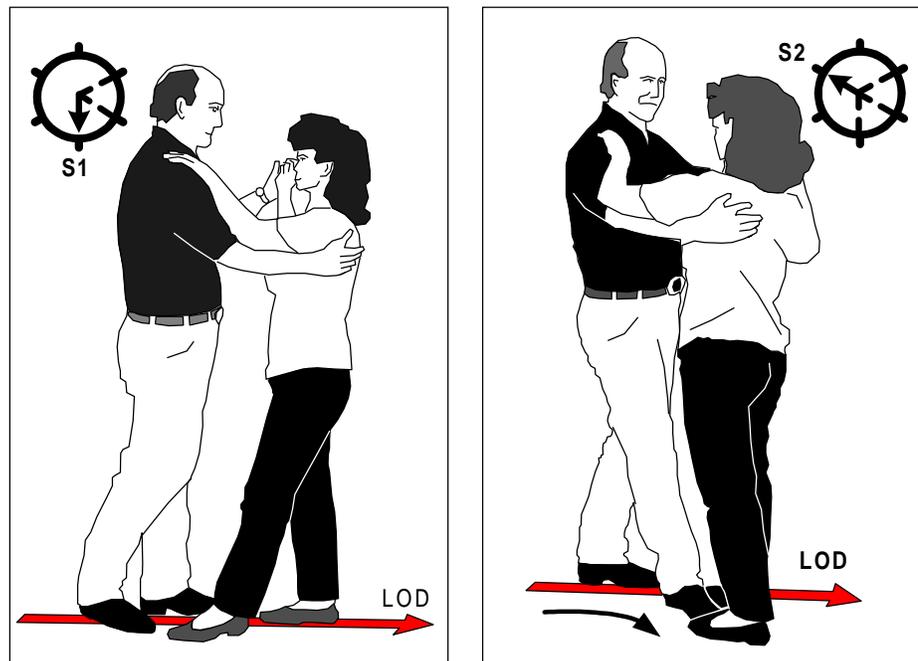
## Conversation Basic 2 Step

**Pre-requisite** Completed Basic Two Step instruction  
(This is a beginning pattern)

**Introduction** The Conversation Basic in Two Step is made up of distinct parts:

- Right body turn to a side-together,
- Repeatable tandem forward steps with side-together steps, and
- Recovery to closed position back.

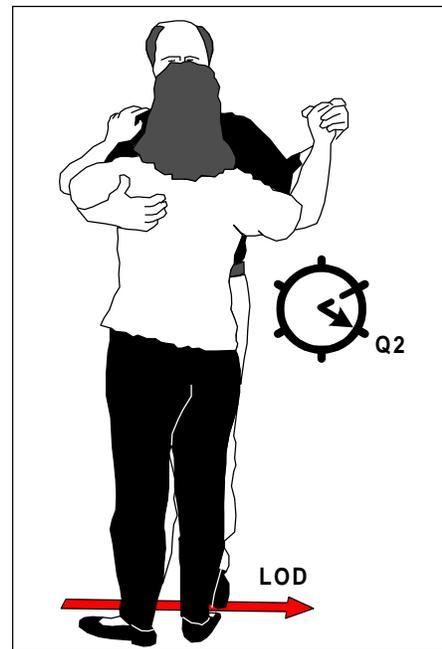
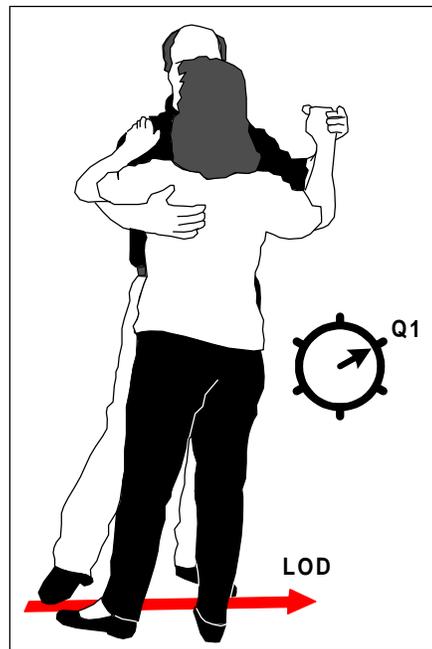
### The Right Body Turn



To begin, the dancers are in the Closed Forward position with the gentleman facing forward. They complete two quick steps (not shown) and the first slow step straight forward in the line of dance. This secures the lady's right foot in place.

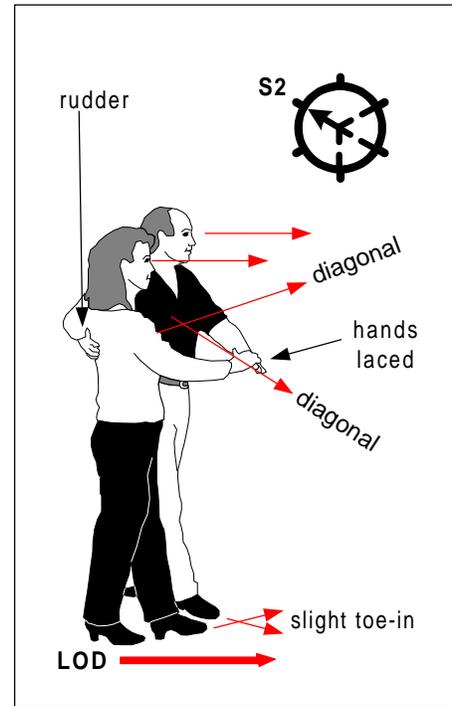
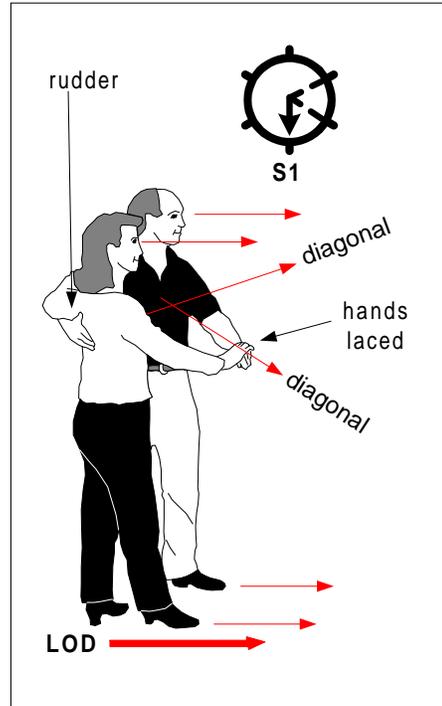
The gentleman then executes a frame turn to his right by turning his upper body and his arms such that it compels the lady to step to the side, which parts her feet. As he turns her, he places his right foot into the hole that has opened between her feet. This is called a right body turn.

A view from in front shows how the gentleman uses his upper body to compel the lady to pivot to his right. The lady toes in as she steps to the side, which in “freeze-frame” looks awkward, but is normally not visible because it happens so fast.



Using his frame, the gentleman leads the lady into a side-together step on the quick counts. It is important to note that the partners are facing sideways to the line of dance as they do their quick-quick (side together). The gentleman is facing outside and the lady is facing inside relative to the line of dance.

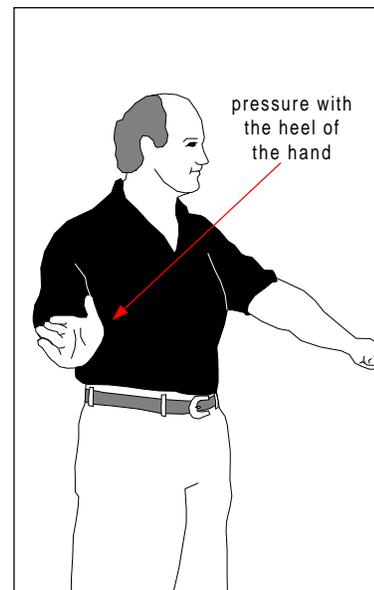
The Repeat

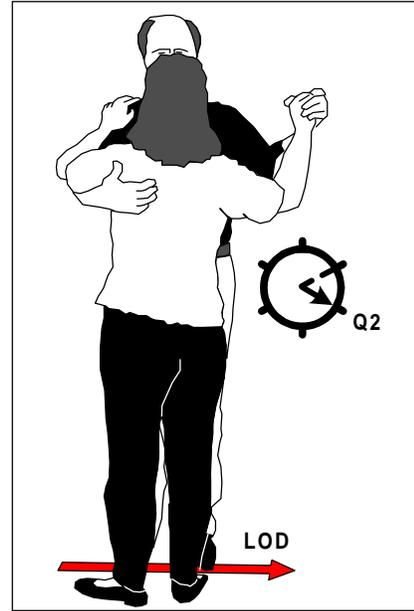
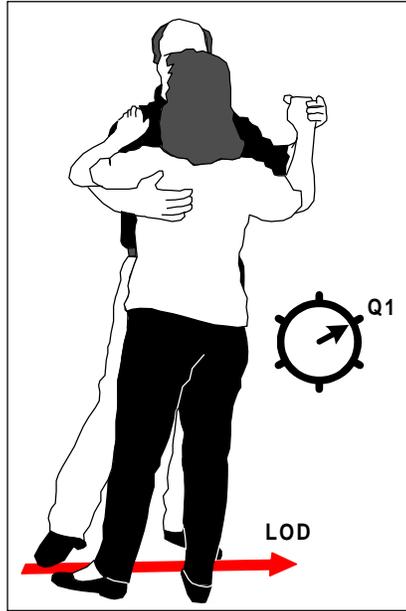


The next four steps – two slow steps and two quick steps – make up the **repeat** portion of the pattern so that the pattern can be repeated until ready for exit. On the first slow the gentleman uses his right hand on the lady's back to guide her to turn forward. He laces his left hand with her right hand and lowers it to waist level to guide her in the direction he wishes her to travel.

It is important to note that to prevent the elbows passing behind the centerline of the rib cage and “breaking the frame”, the two partners face their upper bodies diagonal to the line of dance by leading with their shoulder. They create the “illusion” they are facing forward by pointing their toes and nose down the line of dance. (Second slow toe in.)

The gentleman compels her to do this with his right hand on her back, pivoting his hand and using the heel of his hand.

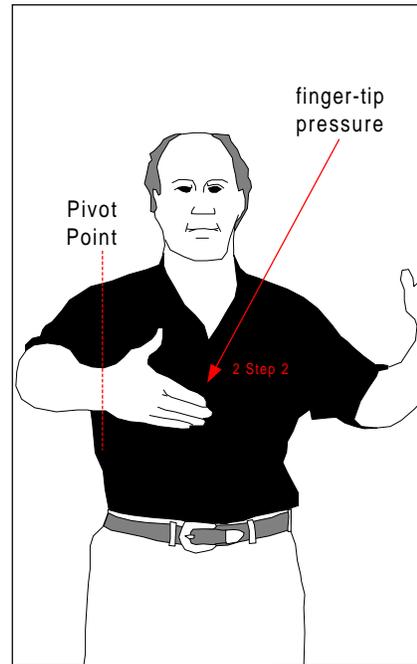




On the quick steps, the gentleman turns to face the lady (sideways in the line of dance). At the same time, he uses the finger tips of this right hand on her back to direct her to do likewise. He raises his left hand joined with her right to confirm the move.

The partners execute side steps along the line of dance on the quick steps of the basic.

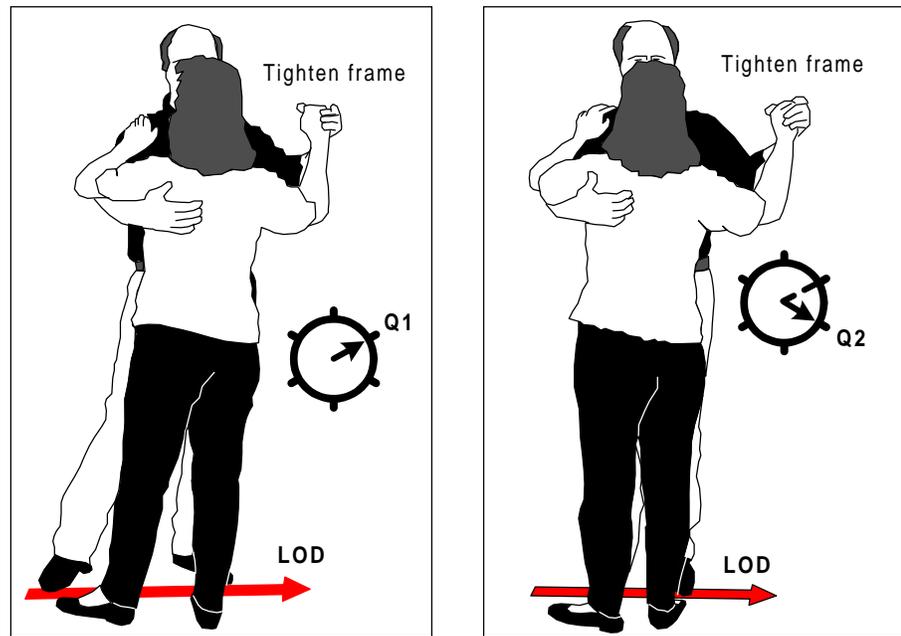
Note that on the side-together steps, the dancers are toe-to-toe and are not offset as in closed dance frame. This is because their direction of movement (sideways) is not impeded by their partner's position and it is not required.

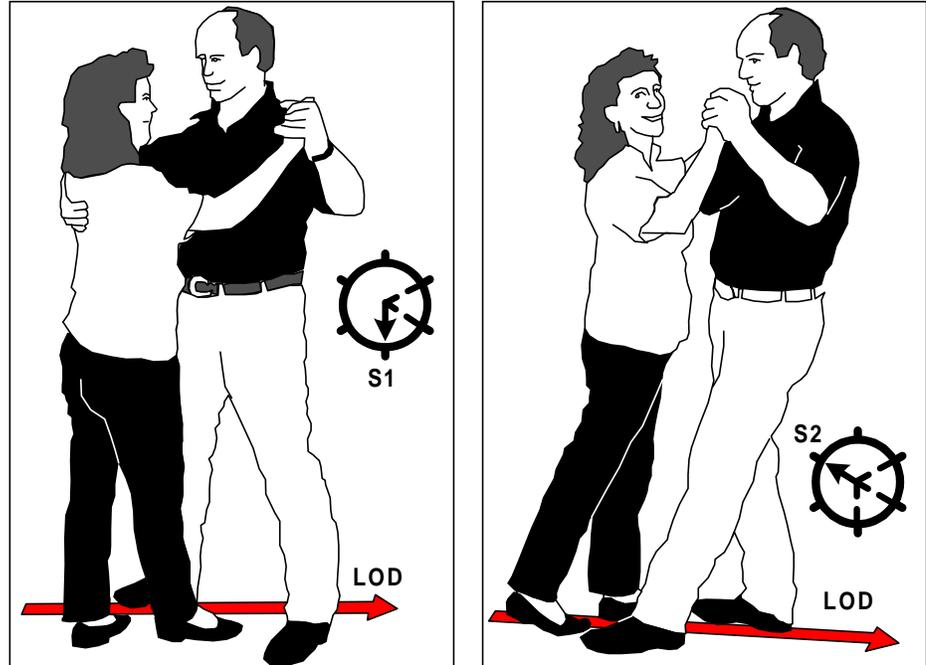


### Recovery with the Common Exit

When the partners have executed the repeat pattern to their satisfaction, the gentleman must decide to exit while the partners are facing forward on the slow steps. That is because the communication for the exit must be done on the quick steps, and that communication is different for different exits.

In the common exit, the gentleman steps around in front of the lady to end in a closed backward position, which is the second half of the right body turn learned in beginning 2 step. To communicate this to the lady in advance, on the quick steps (side together), he will simply tighten his frame. That tells the lady to shorten her first slow step to allow him to step across in front of her on his first slow step.





As the gentleman steps all the way across in front of her, the lady pivots forward in a “baby step”.

The gentleman takes a normal second slow step backward and compels the lady to step forward on her second slow.

### Conclusion

The material presented here is not all-inclusive, but only touches the high points. Additional details will have to be taught in conjunction with an instructor present. Please call to join a class.

This concludes the segment on Two Step Basic Conversation.