

### 2 Step Second Level Walk Through Square Off – Single Turn

**Pre-requisite**

To complete this segment, you must have completed the first level of 2 step instruction.

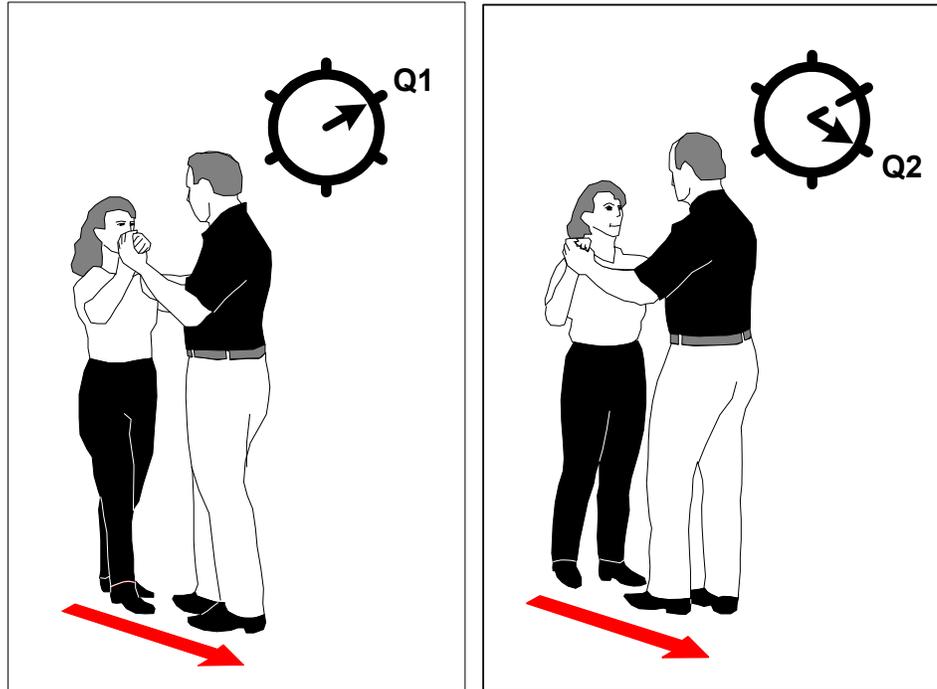
**Overview**

The Walk Through Square Off is the core pattern of a major portion of all 2 step patterns. This pattern leads to double spins for both the ladies and gentlemen. This pattern and the double spins is what led to Western swing that was at the start of modern two step dancing.

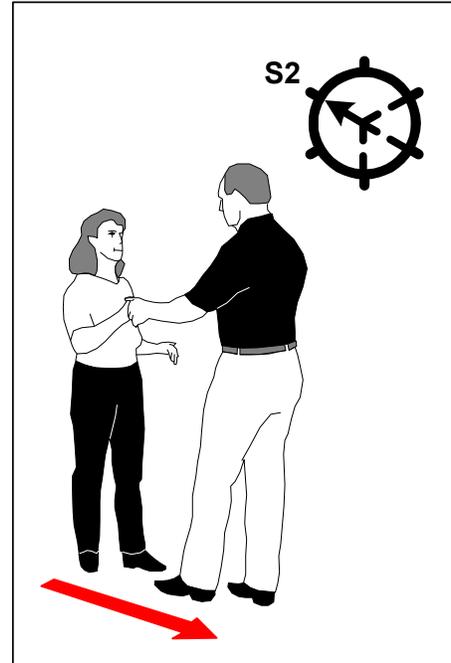
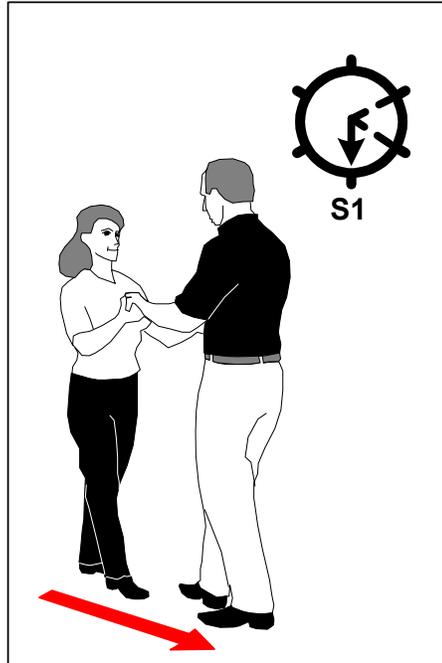
In this pattern, the couple start from an open position with the gentleman in backward line of dance. He steps off to his left and leads the lady behind him to pass him up. They both turn to face each other on the last slow. Then, the gentleman forms up behind the lady as he leads her down the line of dance and turns her around to end in closed position forward line of dance.

**The Lead**

In the first two quick steps the gentleman is in backward line of dance in the CLOSED position.

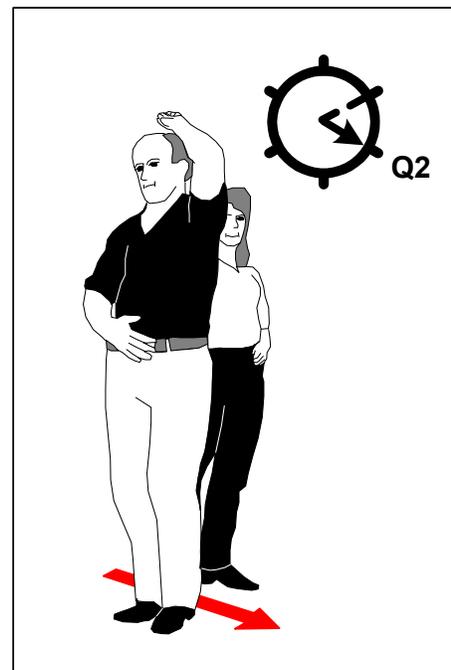
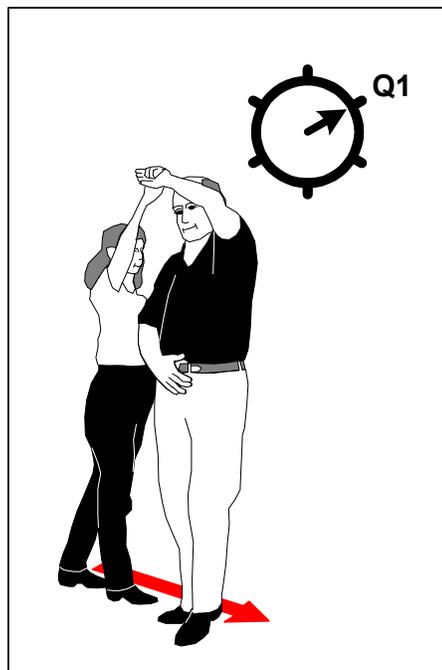


He slides his right hand from under her arm to an open position with hands clasped on the first slow. On the second slow, he releases his right hand and slightly elevates his left hand to tell the lady someone (he this time) is going under the clasped hands.



**Walk Through**

The gentleman pivots 90° to his left and steps off the lady's track just enough to clear room for her. On the second quick, he brings his feet together for a baby side together. He turns his left hand to a "waiter's palm" and leads the lady behind him down the line of dance. She passes her feet for BIG quick steps so she can move passed the gentleman.

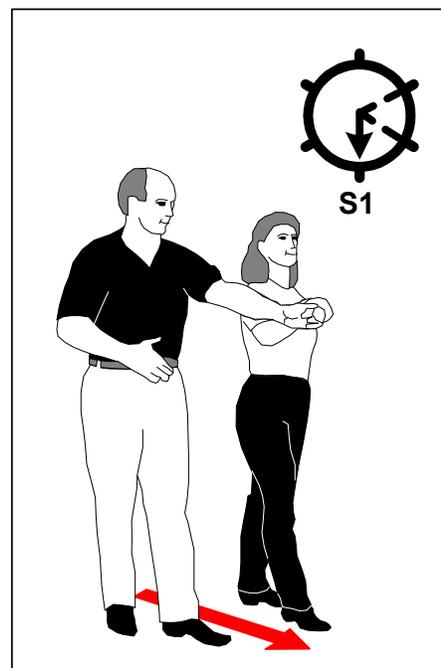


**CAST**

**WARNING:** Do not stop on these steps. This motion is fluid and moves from over his head, to the extended CAST, and ends on the next step with the SQUARE OFF and his hand pulled back through to the other side. These are stations you must pass through to make this work, but you do not stop.

On the first slow step, the gentleman pivots 90° to his left and extends the connected hands down the line of dance. (This is the third large step for the lady.) The purpose of this is to lead the lady passed him. Note that when he turns on his pivot, he keeps his feet close together for a baby step.

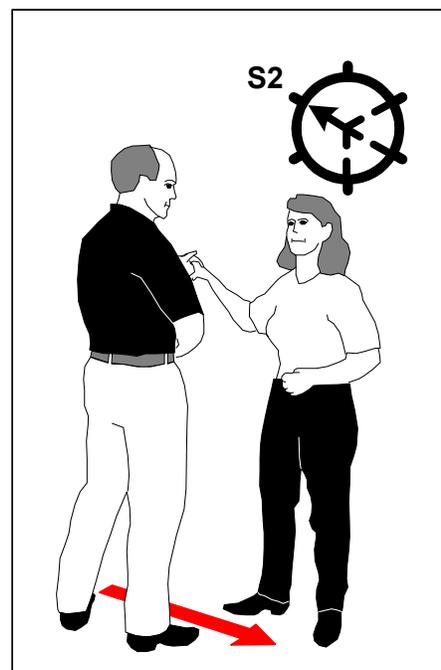
The idea here is to get the lady passed him so they can eventually close up with her backward in the line of dance. It does him no good to lead her to take big steps down the line of dance if he keeps pace with her.

**Square OFF**

**WARNING:** It is extremely important that each partner have their weight on the forward foot – lady on her left and gentleman on his right. Failure to do so could cause either of the partners to step off on the wrong foot in the next step. The correct foot to step off on is the trailing foot – left foot for the gentleman and right foot for the lady.

On the second slow step, the gentleman pivots to his left 90° and pulls the connected hand back through along the line of dance to cause the lady to pivot to her right 90°. Note that they are parallel but NOT facing each other. They are off set. The gentleman's right forward foot is lined up with the lady's trailing right foot. Their connected hands form a "square" with his left extending straight in front of his body and hers straight out to her side.

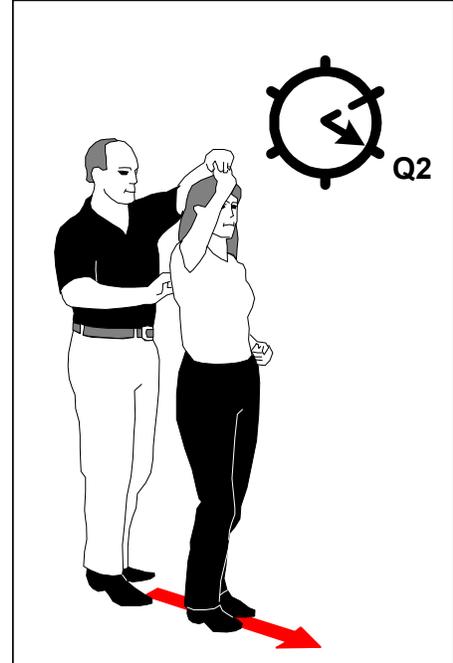
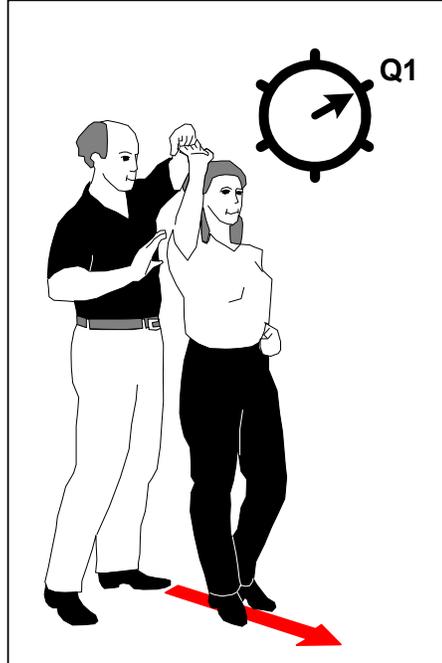
The clasped hands form a bridge – lady's thumb pointing down and gentleman's thumb on top.



Note that you are only in this position a fraction of a second.

**Single Turn Lead**

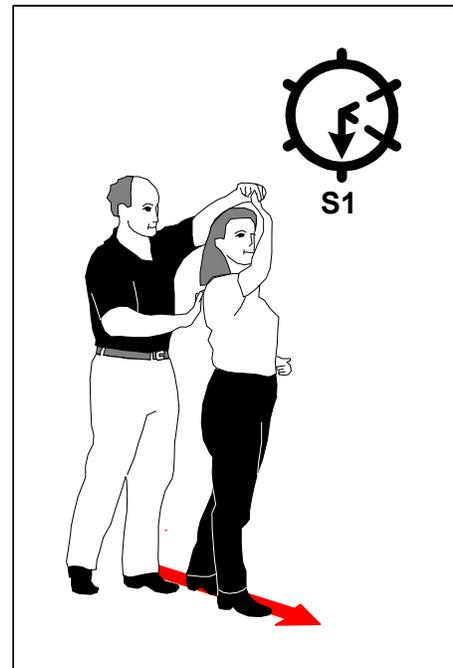
**CAUTION:** It is important that the gentleman take baby steps here or he will kick the lady in her heels. Remember that offset footwork is designed for partners **FACING EACH OTHER**. On this pattern, they are facing the same direction.



**CAUTION:** It is important for the lady to recognize that a turn is about to occur so that she can maneuver her left arm. As the turn occurs on the next step, she must raise her left elbow while keeping it close to her body so she does not get it trapped upon close. She must be careful not to strike the gentleman in the chest or face with her elbow as she turns.

The next three steps form the single turn lead. The gentleman leads the lady down the line of dance by holding the connected hands to the right of her head. He places his right hand on her back to tell her NOT to spin. He steps behind her on the line of dance.

On the second quick, he continues leading her down the line in that same position. On the third step (the slow), he elevates the connected hands slightly to tell the lady that she is about to turn.



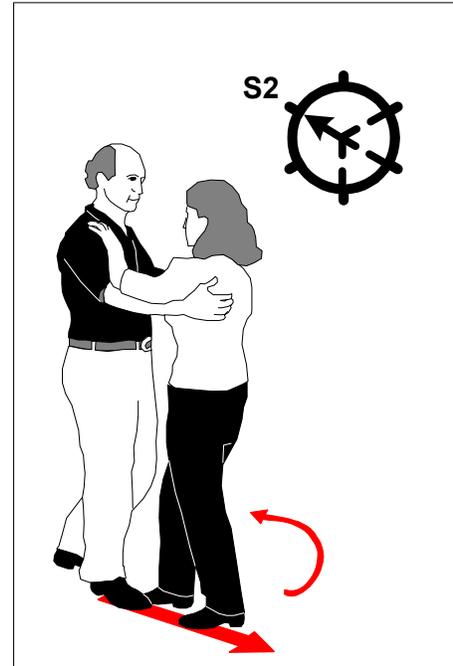
**CLOSE**

**CAUTION:** It is important for the gentleman to make this last step a big step or the distance between the dancers will be a large one and he will end up stooped over to close with her – not a good thing. He must overcome his urge not to take a big step. Appearances are on the previous step that there will not be room. He must trust that the space will be there and step forward. It will be there when she turns.

**Conclusion**

On the second slow step, the gentleman brings the connected hands down over the lady's head to cause her to pivot to her left and step back. He closes with her and places his right hand under her arm to clasp the shoulder blade on her back.

She rests her left arm on top of his arm (the shelf) and places her left hand on his shoulder for the classic closed position.



The material presented here is not all-inclusive, but only touches the high points. There are many other tips to help in your two step technique. Some of these tips will be presented in the course of other dance segments, while others may have to be taught in conjunction with an instructor present.

This concludes the segment on 2 step Walk Through Square Off with a single turn.