

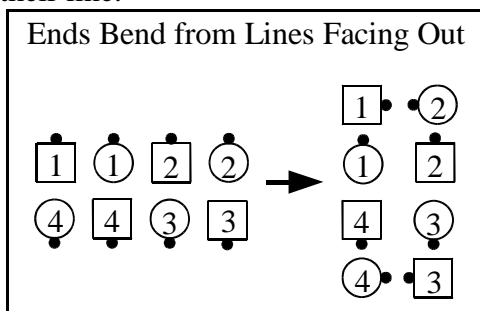
Keith's Class

by Keith Rubow

Welcome to Keith's Class. This month we will look at Ends Bend. This deceptively simple call can do some interesting things when it is done from some non-standard starting formations.

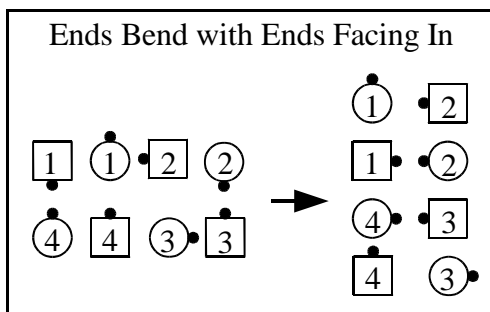
DEFINITION: The Ends (who must be as if they are ends of lines) do their part of Bend the Line. In other words, the Ends (in one smooth movement) step forward, turn $\frac{1}{4}$ towards the center of their four dancer formation, and step forward again. Because it is one smooth motion, the original ends can roll. The Centers do not turn, and do not move, except as necessary for square breathing.

The most common starting formation for Ends Bend is Lines facing out. In this case the Ends simply do their part of Bend the Line to face the other end of their line.

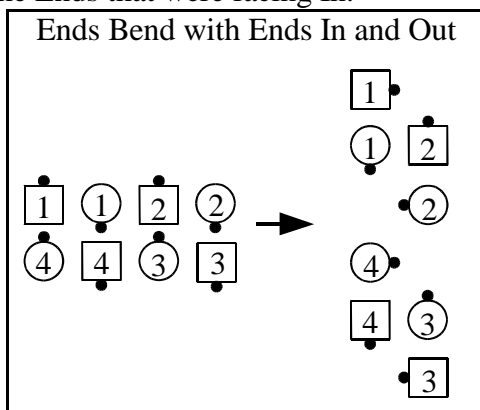


Notice that the definition says nothing about the facing direction of the Centers, or even what formation the Centers must be in. In the above example the Centers could just as well have been facing in, or could have been T-Boned to the Ends (i.e. Centers facing as if they were in columns).

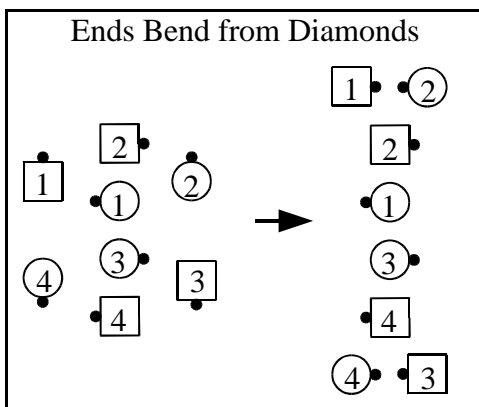
Another possible starting formation would be to have all the Ends facing in. In this case the Centers need to breath outward to make room for the Ends to come into the middle. This is illustrated below, this time with the Centers shown facing in various directions at the start of the call.



So far we have seen Ends Bend with all Ends facing Out and with all Ends facing In. What happens if we have some of each? This is illustrated below. Note that the Centers still have to breath outward to make room for the Ends that were facing In.

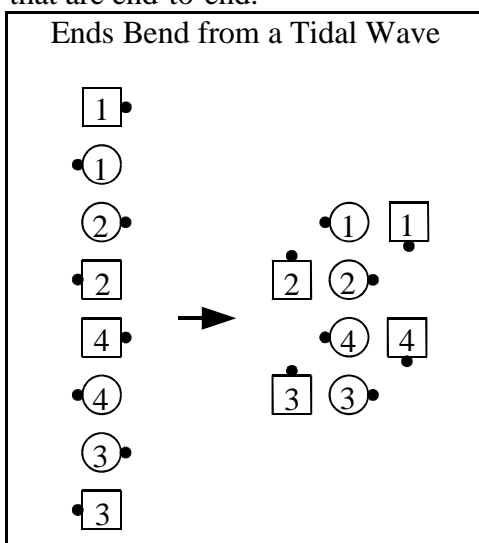


It gets even more interesting once we realize that the definition only says that the Ends have to be as ends of lines. Not only isn't the facing direction of the Centers important, the formation of the Centers isn't important either. So let's venture beyond the simple 2x4 matrix and look at some other possibilities for Ends Bend. We could start in diamonds.



What if the Ends (the points of the diamonds in this case) had been facing in instead of facing out? In that case the Centers would have had to breath out to make room for the ends to come into the middle. This is the same breathing that happens when we start in lines facing in. We would have ended with a facing box in the center, and mini-waves on the outside.

Finally, let's look at what happens if we start in a tidal line. This is legal, since Ends Bend is done in each line of four. A tidal line is just two lines of four that are end-to-end.



Notice that the Centers (the girls in this case) had to breath inward to eliminate the space that was left by the very center boys when they did

the Ends Bend. Breathing inward never happens when we do an Ends Bend from parallel lines.

Ends Bend can be done from some other formations as well. It works from an Hourglass, from Point-to-Point Diamonds, and even from an “T”. Just remember these few simple rules. Ends Bend is done in a group of four dancers. If both Ends start facing the same direction, they will end facing each other. The Centers do not move except as required by square breathing to make room for the ends, or to take out space left by the ends. You may rarely see Ends Bend called from anything other than lines facing out, but if you do, you will know how to do it!