

# Keith's Klass

by Keith Rubow

This month we will look at **Linear Action**. This call can be done from quite a few different starting formations. The definition is as follows:

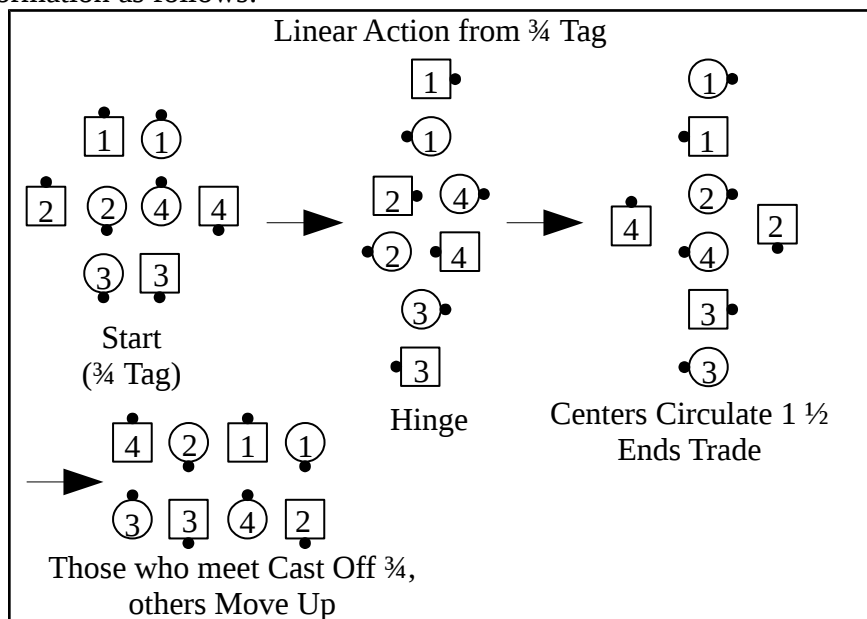
Everyone Hinge.

Centers Circulate  $1\frac{1}{2}$  as Ends Trade.

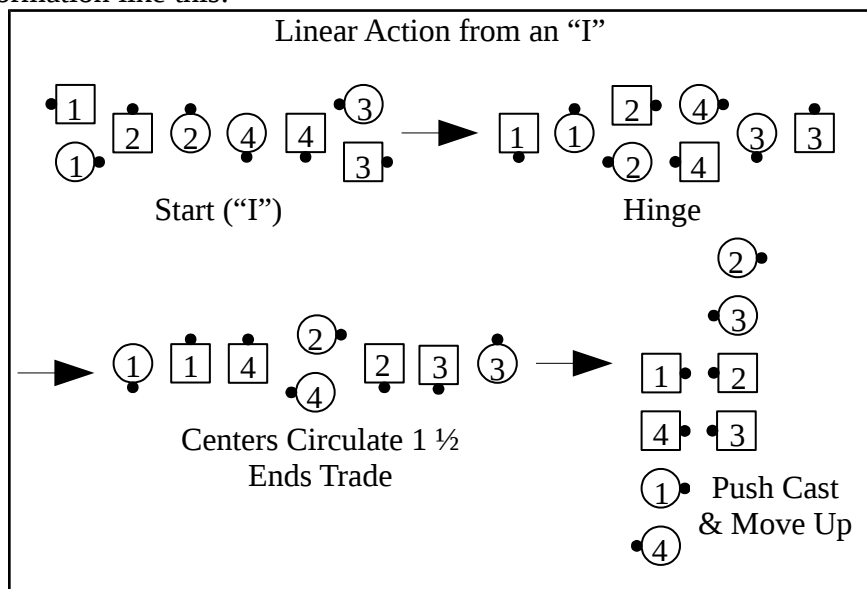
Those who meet Cast Off  $\frac{3}{4}$  as others move up to ends of lines (as in Hourglass Circulate).

Note that this call does not have a well defined number of parts because the Centers do two things (Circulate and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Circulate) while the Ends do one thing (Trade). However, everyone does a Hinge for the first part, so we can leave off the Hinge if we FINISH Linear Action.

This call usually starts from some sort of general  $\frac{1}{4}$  tag (or  $\frac{3}{4}$  tag) formation as follows:



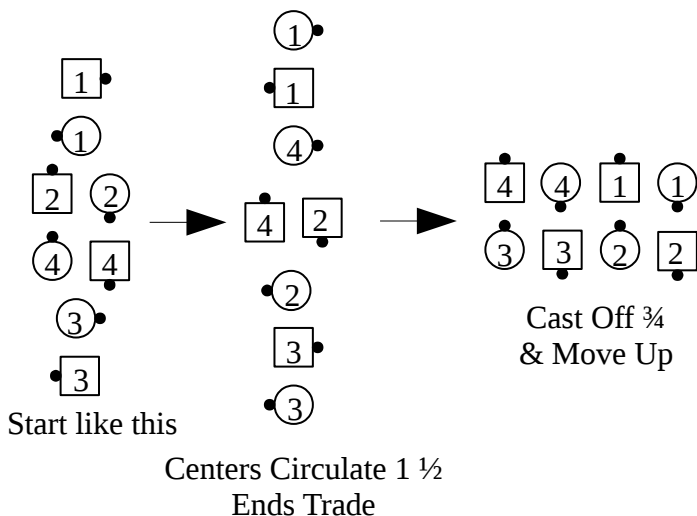
That was pretty easy. The first Hinge for the ends was a Partner Hinge, but it often is. Everything else is plain vanilla. When the Centers Circulate  $1\frac{1}{2}$  they will usually form a diamond. When it is the centers of the diamond who meet the ends for the Cast Off  $\frac{3}{4}$ , it just feels good (because we usually do it that way). However, things can get much more interesting. Consider starting Linear Action from an "I" formation like this:



All the bad stuff happened. This time the Centers had to do a Partner Hinge. And when the Centers did their Circulate  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , it was the resulting points of the center diamond that met the ends, and it was a Push Cast Off  $\frac{3}{4}$ . And the others had to move up (like an Hourglass Circulate) only to find another dancer coming to the same spot, so they took right hands. All these different things happening can feel odd when you don't expect them.

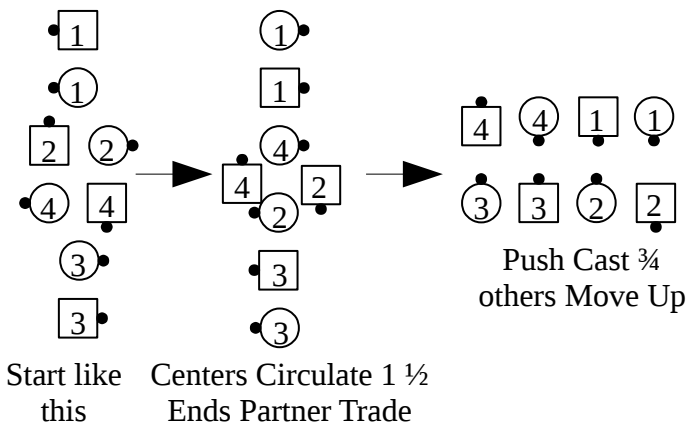
Can it get any stranger? Remember that I said the first part is Hinge for everyone, so we could FINISH Linear Action by leaving off the Hinge? Well, this can be sort of easy, as follows:

## Finish Linear Action



That was pretty tame because it was just the same as what we do after the Hinge in a normal (or almost normal) Linear Action. But we can FINISH Linear Action from a formation we could not be in had we done the Hinge. This is where things start to feel really weird. Consider the following:

## Finish Linear Action (weird)



Note that the centers started in a T-boned box, and the ends started as a couple. Neither one of them could have been like that if they had just done a Hinge. But we are leaving the Hinge off because we are FINISHING a Linear Action, so all bets are off and we can do it from any formation where the rest of the call works. The Ends do a Partner Trade, and the Centers Box Circulate  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to end up in a right hand star in the center. Then the Cast Off  $\frac{3}{4}$  is a Push Cast, and the ends move up as usual.

Can it get any stranger? Yes, but I'm not going there today. Just remember what the parts of the call are, and don't get flustered when something seems to be a bit out of the ordinary.