

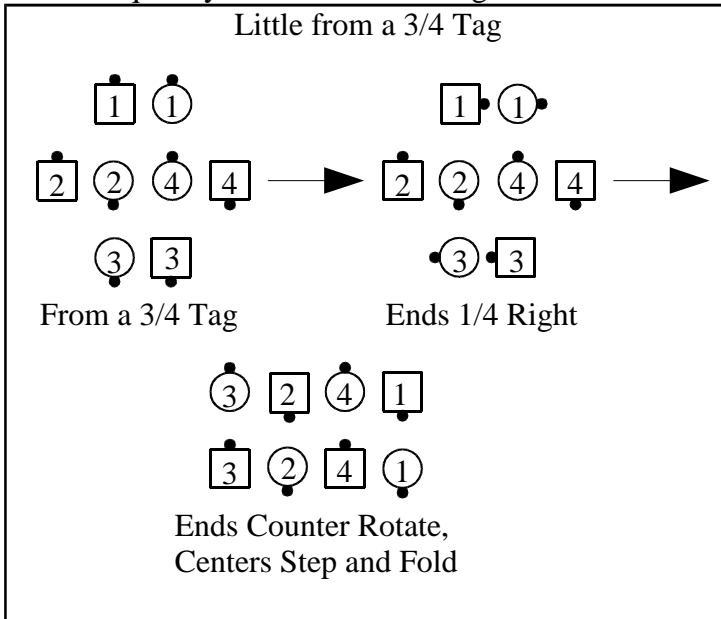
# Keith's Class

by Keith Rubow

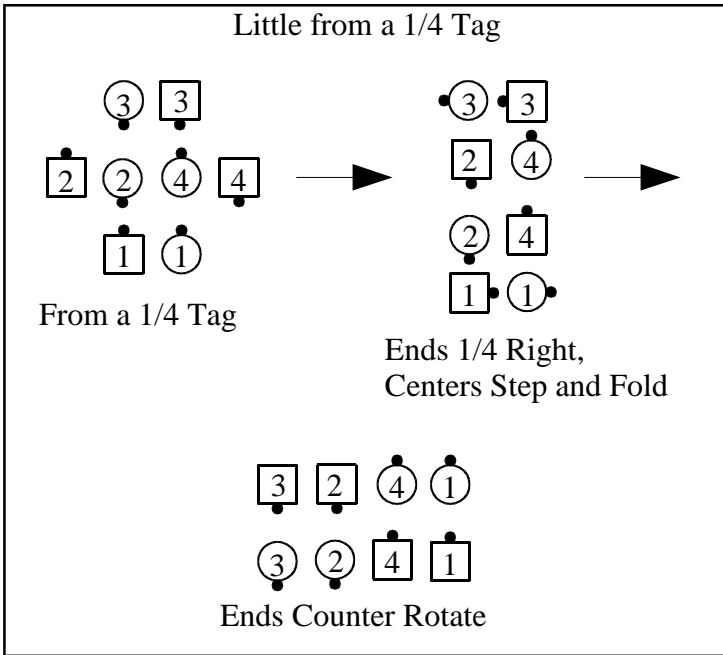
Welcome to **Keith's Class**. This month we will take a look at **Little**. This call has a very simple definition, but dancers don't always do it correctly.

Definition: Centers Step and Fold, Ends 1/4 Right and Counter Rotate.

Little is most frequently done from a 3/4 Tag formation as follows:

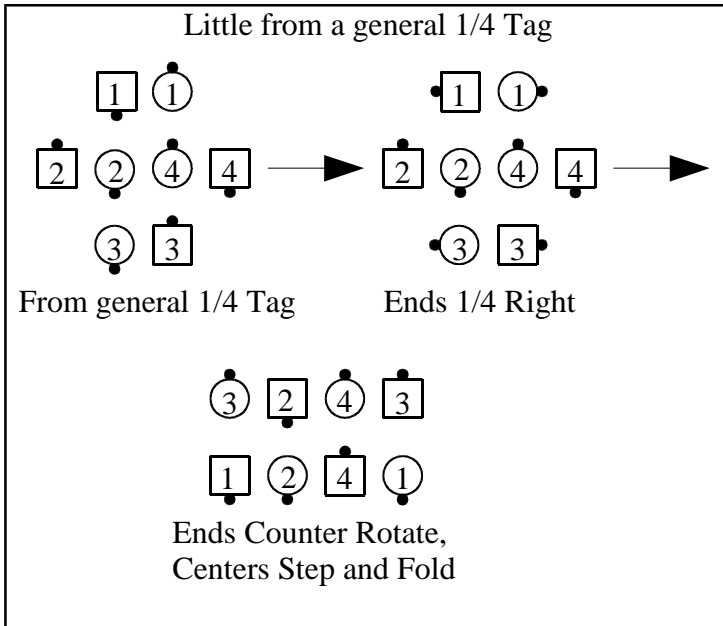


That seems simple enough. What can possibly go wrong? Well, let me tell you. Little is called so much from a 3/4 Tag formation that the Ends become accustomed to always counter rotating in a clockwise (or reverse promenade) direction. But the Ends don't have to start facing out. For example, they will start facing in if the call starts in a 1/4 Tag formation.



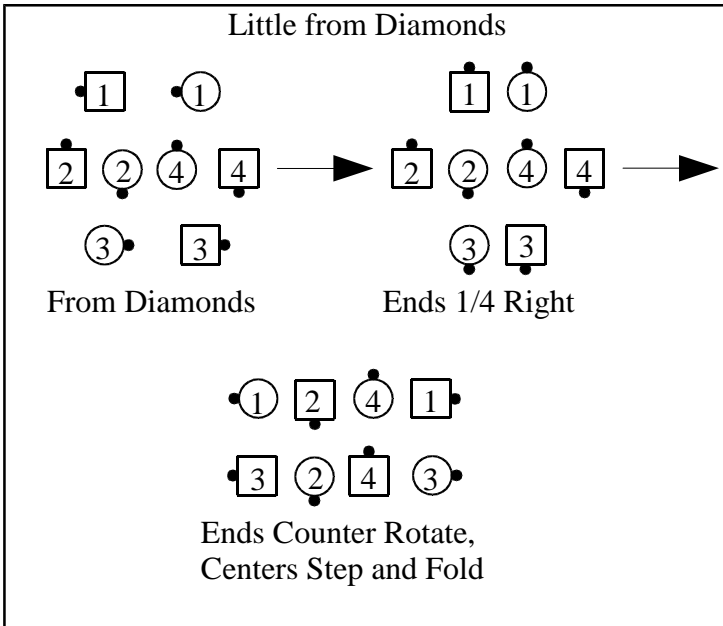
Notice that the Ends will counter rotate the other way (counter clockwise, or promenade direction) if they start facing in. But the ends that start together will stay together, so if one end starts to go the wrong way, the other end can help to correct the mistake. Note that my diagram for starting in a 1/4 Tag formation shows the Centers doing the Step and Fold before the Ends Counter Rotate. It doesn't really matter, since the Ends do two things while the Centers do one thing, so Little is not a 2 part call.

It gets worse. Nobody said the ends had to start facing the same way. What if the ends start in a left handed mini-wave? This always seems to create problems.



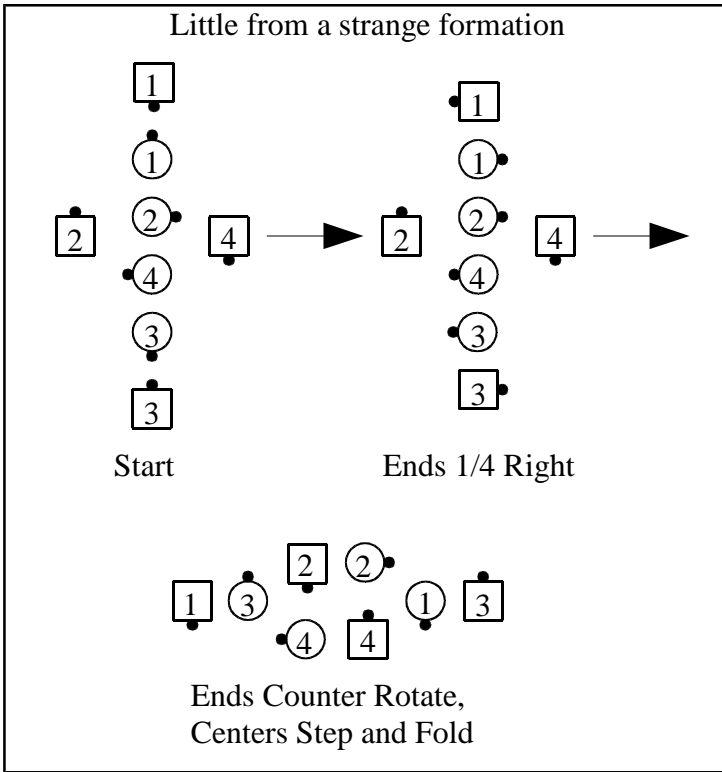
When the ends start in a left hand mini-wave, the 1/4 Right puts them back-to-back. For some reason this seems to be hard for dancers to do. They are so accustomed to going in the same direction as the other end they are adjacent to that some dancers will feel they are going the wrong way, and they will 1/4 Left instead of Right. Once the 1/4 Right is done correctly, the ends must Counter Rotate. In this case they will meet someone from the other side of the square going the other way (which makes some dancers think they are going the wrong way when they are not). They must pass this person and end up back-to-back with them to complete the counter rotate. Sometimes dancers will not Counter Rotate far enough and will stop facing that other end. Oh dear, so many places to make a mistake.

But wait, there's more! The Ends don't have to start as ends of columns. They might start as ends of lines (or points of diamonds, which is the same thing).



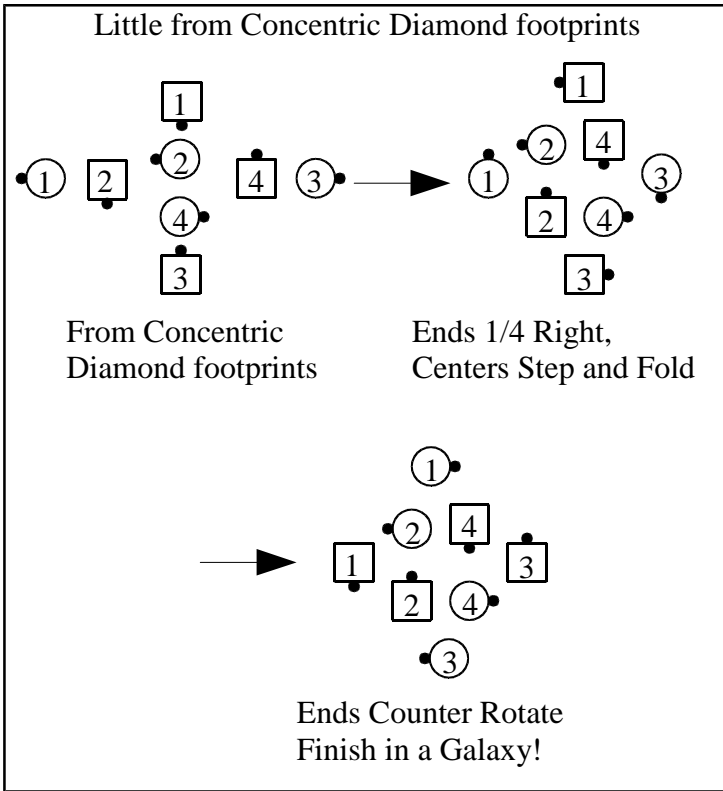
In the case above the ends will be facing out after the 1/4 Right. They are now ends of columns. Furthermore, they don't have a mini-wave handhold, which means they don't counter rotate in the same direction. In this case the Beau goes clockwise while the Belle goes counter clockwise, and they cross each others' paths as they counter rotate. While this is the correct thing to do, it can feel wrong.

It can get even worse. The ends don't have to start as ends of lines or as ends of columns. They can start as if in a tidal column. And I haven't mentioned it, but the centers don't have to start in a wave. The centers can start in a diamond. Consider the example below.



In the example above I had the ends start facing each other, so they had a mini-wave after the 1/4 right. This makes them go opposite directions on the Counter Rotate. If they had started with both facing in (or both facing out) they would have gone together as a couple on the counter rotate.

It is also possible to do a Little from concentric diamond footprints. This requires that the centers be in either a right or left hand diamond, with the ends facing either in or out, as follows.



I should point out something about the example above. There are two possibilities for the center four. The center four could be either the center 1x4 (side girls and head boys), or the center diamond (all the sides). But notice that the center 1x4 cannot step and fold because the ends of the 1x4 are ends of a column, not ends of a line. Since the center 1x4 cannot do the step and fold, it must be the center diamond that does the step and fold. I also had the starting formation with some ends facing in and some facing out. This makes them counter rotate in opposite directions so they pass each other (passing right shoulders) on the counter rotate.

There are lots of other strange starting formations for Little. For example, the Ends can be T-Boned to each other (some starting as ends

of columns and some starting as ends of lines). It can start from an Hourglass (the centers will be the diamond). It can start from a Bone (or an "I") formation. Also, for every possible arrangement of the ends, the centers can be in either a wave or a diamond. To survive Little from unfamiliar starting formations it is necessary to identify who are the center four that do the step and fold. It cannot be a 1x4 with some dancers column oriented. If you see this, look for something else (a diamond). The ends will be the other four (who are not the centers). As long as the ends don't 1/4 left instead of right they should do just fine.

There are also some variations of Little. The caller may instruct the ends to "go as you are", meaning do not 1/4 right before the counter rotate. Little is also the first part of Little More, and the first part of Plenty.

I have not covered asymmetric starting formations with the centers starting in an inverted line, or with the ends crashing on the same spot on the counter rotate, moving the flagpole center of the set in the process. There is actually quite a lot to a Little. It is a good idea to get a good handle on this call before moving on to the other related calls.