

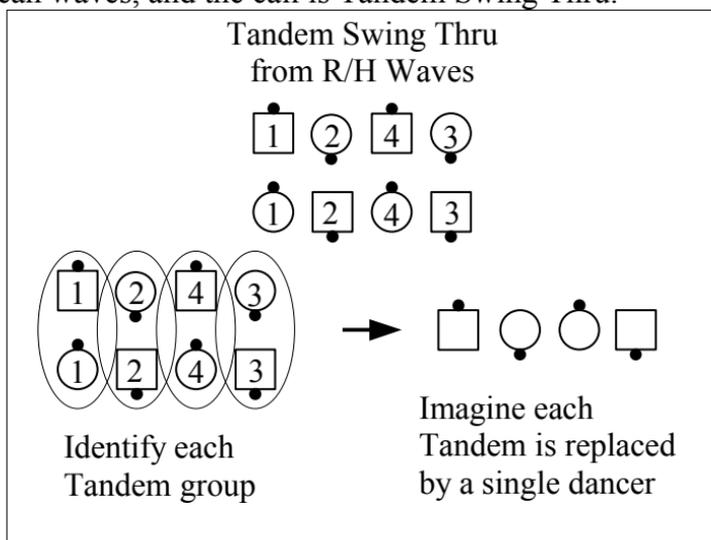
Keith's Class

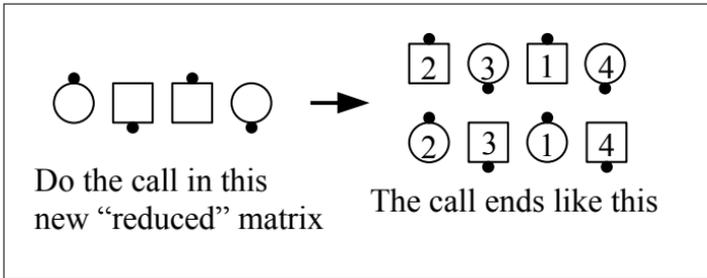
by Keith Rubow

This month we will look at something I call “**Reduce The Matrix**”. No, this is not a new call, and it is not a concept either. It is simply a method you must apply to successfully dance calls using concepts such as As Couples, Tandem, Siamese, Triangles/Boxes Are Solid, Twosome, or any other concept where two or more dancers work together as a single dancer.

Here is what I mean by Reduce The Matrix. Whenever a concept is used that makes two or more dancers work together as if they were a single dancer (As Couples, Tandem, etc.), you must imagine that those dancers are replaced by a single dancer. This reduces the size of the matrix you are working in. You must then determine what that new (smaller) matrix is, and figure out how to do the call in that reduced matrix. Of course this “reduced” matrix exists only in your mind.

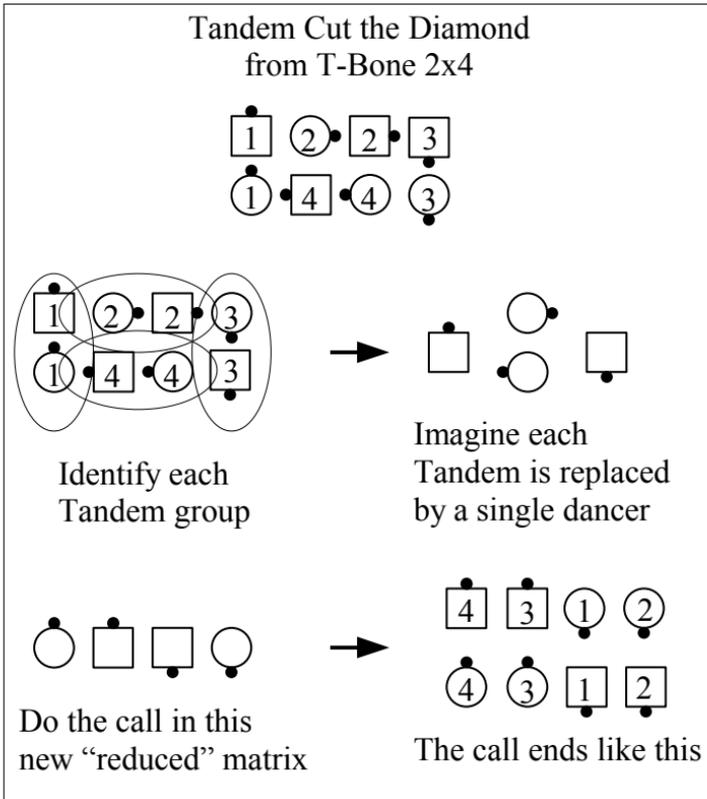
A few examples will help clarify this. Suppose we have parallel right hand ocean waves, and the call is Tandem Swing Thru.





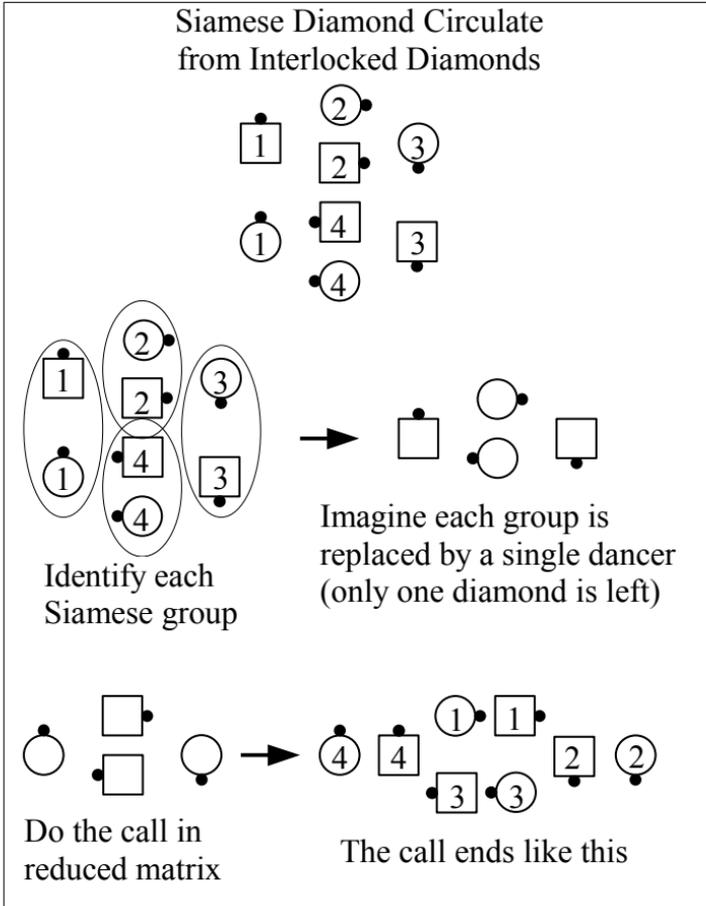
Notice that when the tandems were replaced (in your mind) by single dancers, the matrix was "reduced" from a 2x4 matrix (parallel waves) to a 1x4 matrix (a single wave).

The first example was quite simple, but things can get a lot more interesting. Consider Tandem Cut the Diamond starting from a T-Boned 2x4 matrix.



Notice how in this example the “reduced” matrix is a completely different shape than the real 8 dancer matrix. The “real” matrix was a 2x4, but the “reduced” matrix is a diamond.

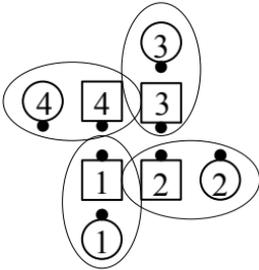
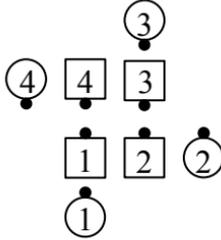
Another example is Siamese Diamond Circulate starting in interlocked diamonds:



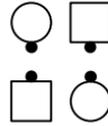
Although the real matrix changed shape considerably (from interlocked diamonds to something called a “bat”), the “reduced matrix” was a diamond both before and after the Diamond Circulate.

Now lets consider what happens when two concepts are nested. How about Siamese, As Couples Touch $\frac{1}{4}$.

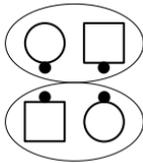
Siamese, As Couples Touch 1/4



Step 1, Identify each Siamese group



Imagine each siamese group is replaced by a single dancer



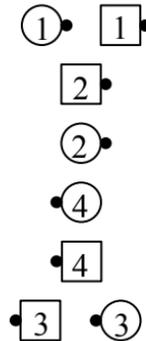
Step 2, Identify each as Couples group



Imagine each couple is replaced by a single dancer. Only a 2 dancer formation is left.



Do the call in reduced matrix



The call ends like this

In this case the matrix had to be reduced twice (once for the Siamese concept, and again for the As Couples concept). Each time the matrix got smaller, and we were left with only a two-dancer formation for the call (Touch $\frac{1}{4}$), which is OK because this is a two-dancer call.

Reducing the matrix can take calls that sound difficult (because of the concepts) and turn them into really simple calls. Because the reduced matrix will always be smaller than the real eight dancer matrix, the call will always be something involving a smaller number of dancers in a smaller matrix. It might be four imaginary dancers in a box, diamond, line or column. It might even be two imaginary dancers in a very small matrix such as a mini-wave, or facing or back-to-back dancers. Just imagine in your mind that each solid group (couple, tandem, triangle, etc.) is really just one dancer in a smaller “reduced” matrix, and figure out how to do the call in that reduced matrix. You will find that the call (done in the reduced matrix) wasn't really hard after all. And suddenly you will see some surprising shape-changing things happening to your square using some really simple calls.