

Keith's Klass

by Keith Rubow

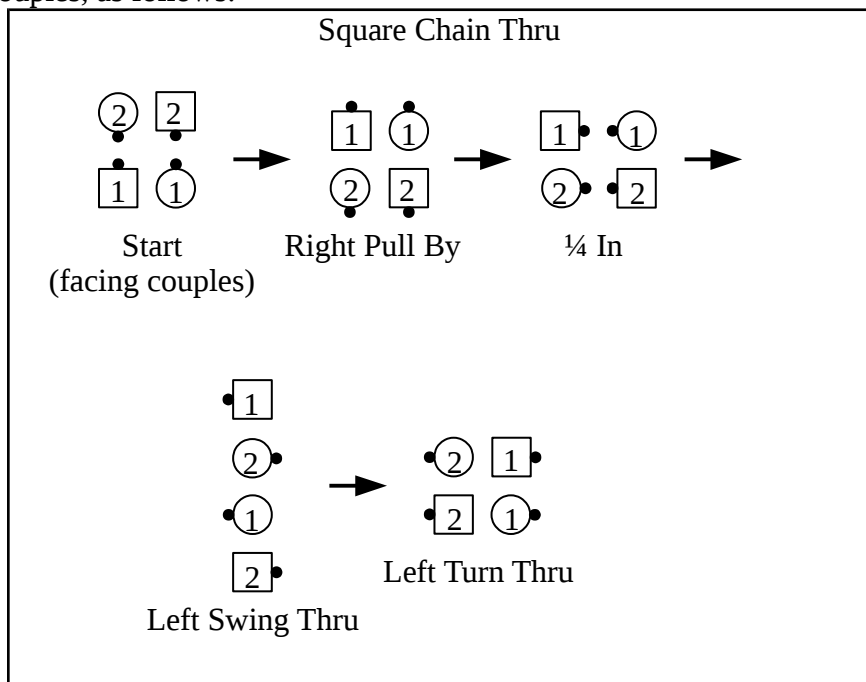
This month we will look at **Square Chain Thru** and **Split Square Chain Thru**. It is very important to understand the parts of these calls.

Definitions:

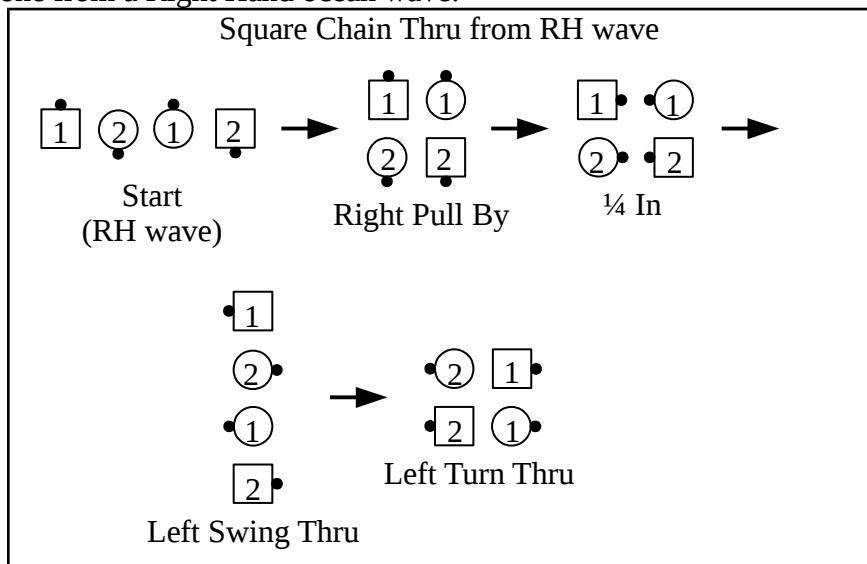
Square Chain Thru: 1) Right Pull By. 2) $\frac{1}{4}$ In. 3) Left Swing Thru. 4) Left Turn Thru. This is a four part call.

Split Square Chain Thru: 1) Those who can Right Pull By. 2) Leads (those who did the right pull by) $\frac{1}{4}$ In. 3) Left Swing Thru. 4) Left Turn Thru. This is also a four part call.

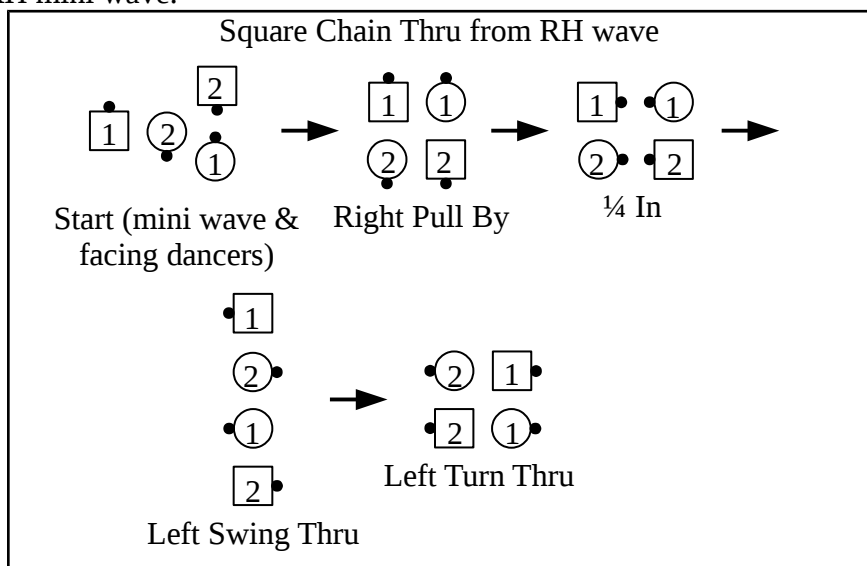
Square Chain Thru is a four dancer call. It usually starts from facing couples, as follows:



Because of the facing couple/ocean wave rule, this call can also be done from a Right Hand ocean wave.

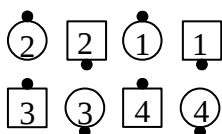
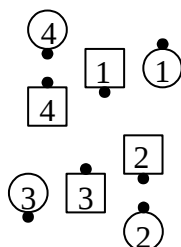
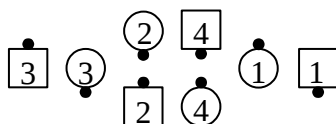
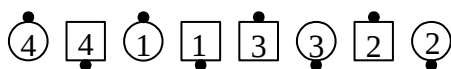
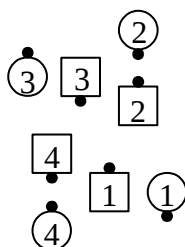
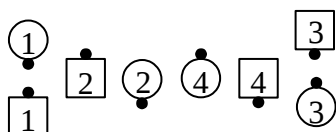
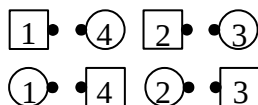
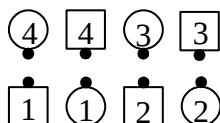


It can also be started with some dancers facing, and some dancers in a RH mini wave.

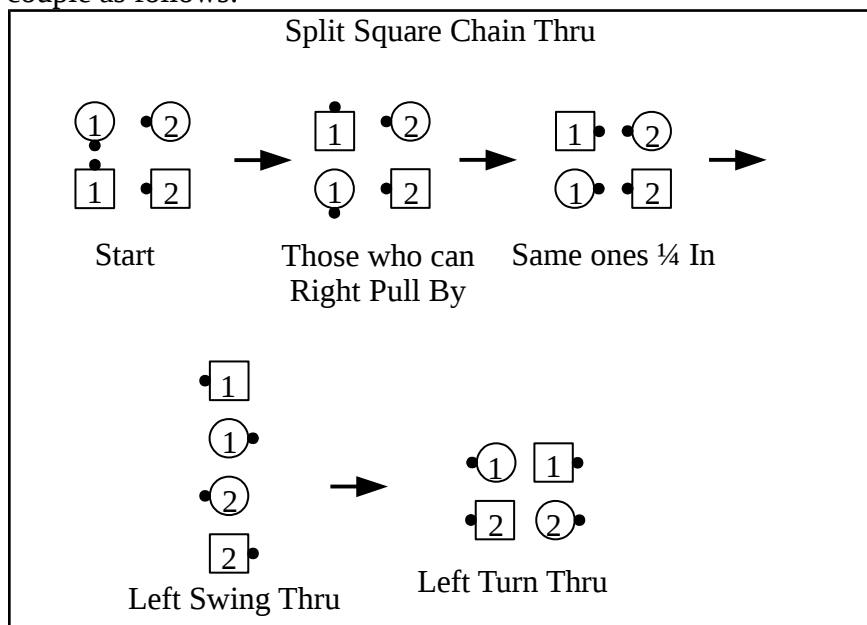


This leads to some interesting starting formations for Square Chain Thru. It can be done from every one of the following eight-dancer formations except for one. Can you find the one that will not work?

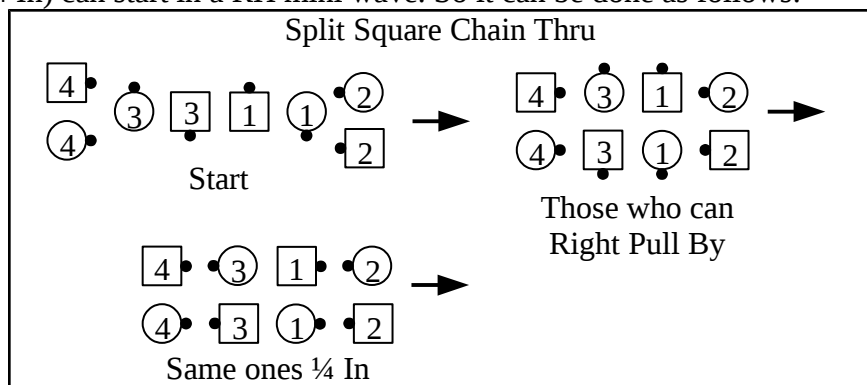
Starting formations for Square Chain Thru
(except for one)



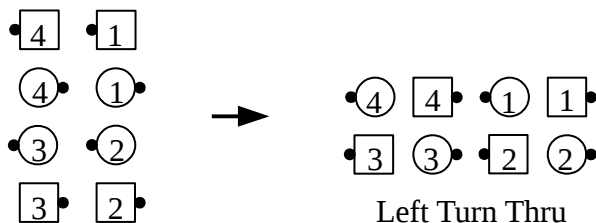
Split Square Chain Thru is just like Square Chain Thru except not everyone can do the Right Pull By to start the call. This means not everyone does the $\frac{1}{4}$ In as well, since only the dancers who do the Right Pull By are allowed to do the $\frac{1}{4}$ In. The usual starting formation is a box with two dancers facing each other, and two dancers facing in as a couple as follows:



Just as in Square Chain Thru, those who do the Right Pull By (and the $\frac{1}{4}$ In) can start in a RH mini wave. So it can be done as follows:



Split Square Chain Thru (continued)



Left Swing Thru

Left Turn Thru

So why do you need to know the parts of Square Chain Thru (and Split Square Chain Thru)? Because the caller can always say something like “Square Chain Thru, but interrupt after the third part with Spin Chain and Exchange the Gears” and you need to know when you have finished the third part (it will be the Left Swing Thru). He could also say “Do $\frac{1}{2}$ of a Square Chain Thru” even though that would be kind of silly. And at higher levels there are the Initially and Finally concepts. Learn the parts well now, and you won't have trouble later.

Both of these calls dance very nicely and smoothly, with an alternating usage of the hands (start with a right hand for the Right Pull By, use the left hand followed by the right hand for the Left Swing Thru, and finish with the left hand for the Left Turn Thru). Make sure you do the whole Left Turn Thru to end back-to-back with the dancer you turned thru with. Learn it well, and you can dance it from any starting formation (that is legal).