

Keith's Klass

by Keith Rubow

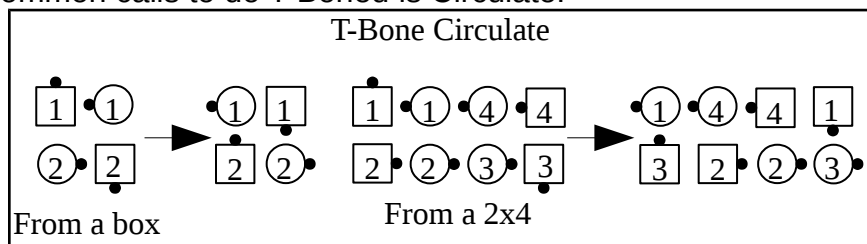
This month we will look at **T-Bones**. T-Bone is not really a concept, but is a term used to describe a formation where one or more dancers are facing 90 degrees off relative to the other dancers.

Definition: A T-Bone is a formation where some dancer(s) are facing a direction 90 degrees off from the other dancers. Some formations (such as diamonds) normally have some dancers 90 degrees off from other dancers. This is not considered a T-Bone, since it is the “usual” case for that formation. It is considered a T-Bone when some dancers are facing 90 degrees off from the “usual” or “expected” facing direction.

While T-Bones are most often seen in a 2x2 matrix (a box) or a 2x4 matrix, they can come up in other formations as well.

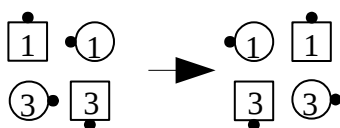
Callers do not need to say “T-Bone” when calling something in a T-Boned formation, but they might say it to tell you that the formation is not as expected and something a little different is going on. Saying “T-Bone” can also tell the dancers that their formation is OK just the way it is, so no one tries to “fix” it by turning 90 degrees.

A surprising number of calls can be danced from T-Boned formations. We will look at a few of them. One of the most common calls to do T-Boned is Circulate:

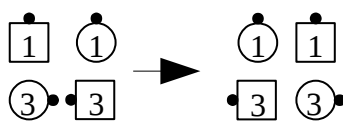


What other calls can be done T-Boned? Well, a whole lot of calls normally done in a 2x2 (box) will work just fine when done T-Boned.

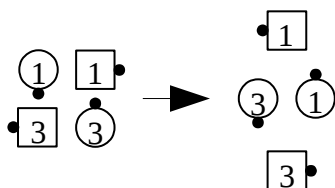
Other T-Bone box calls



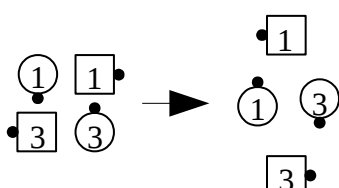
Walk and Dodge



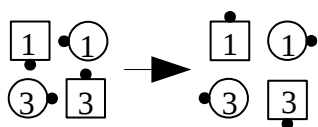
Another Walk and Dodge



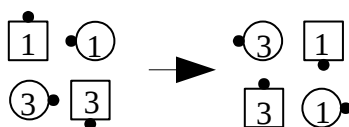
Peel and Trail



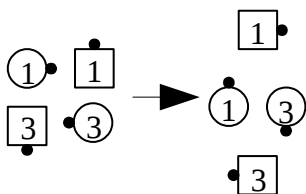
Peel Off



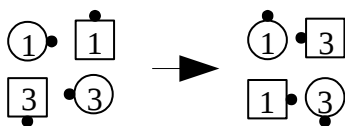
Cross and Turn



Scoot Back



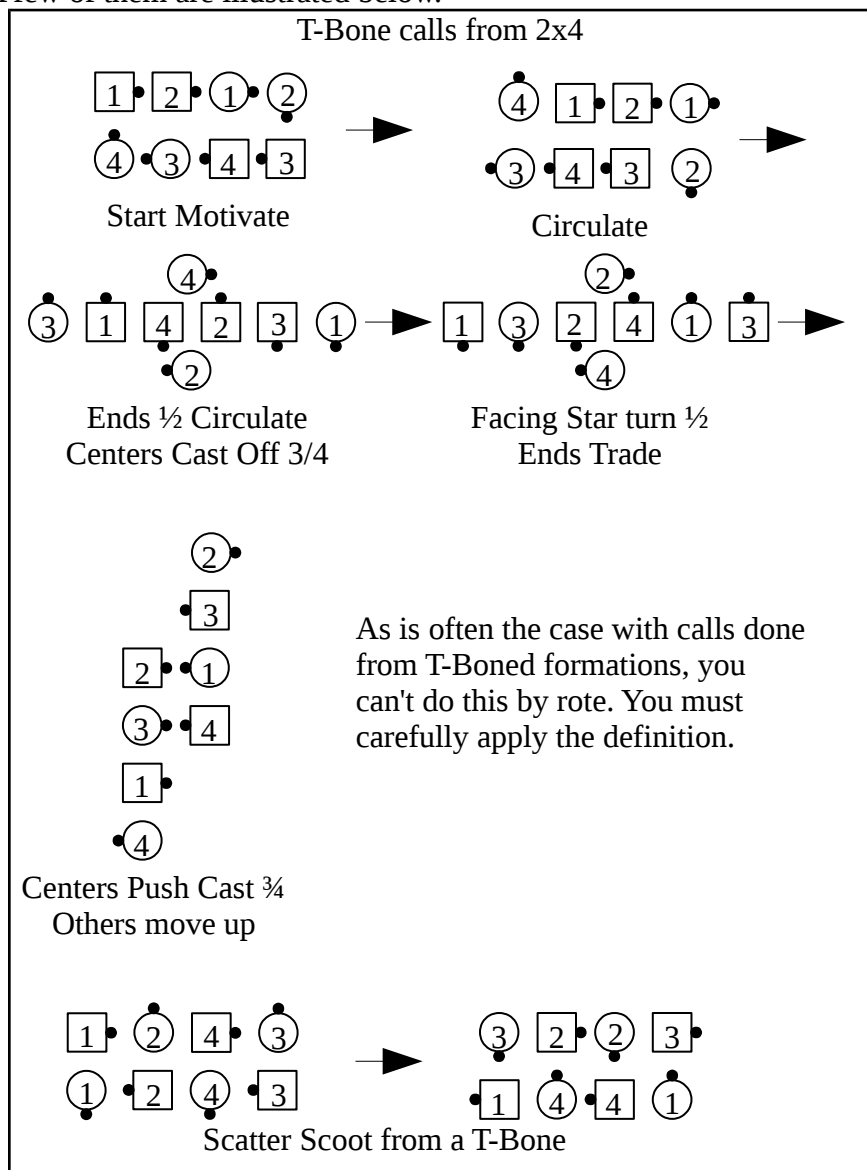
Follow Your Neighbor



Split Transfer

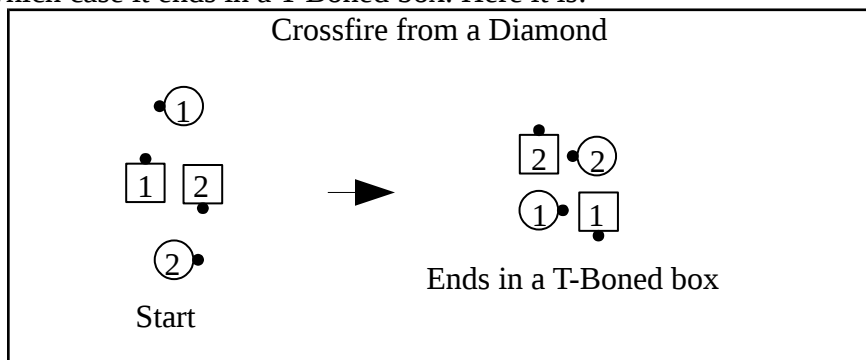
The calls above are just a small sample of the box calls that can be done T-Boned. As a general rule, if the call normally starts in a box and ends in a box, that means that if it starts in a T-Boned box it will end in a T-Boned box. If the call normally starts in a box and ends in a line, that means that if it starts in a T-Boned box it will end in a diamond.

It is also possible to do many 8 dancer calls from a T-Boned formation. A few of them are illustrated below.

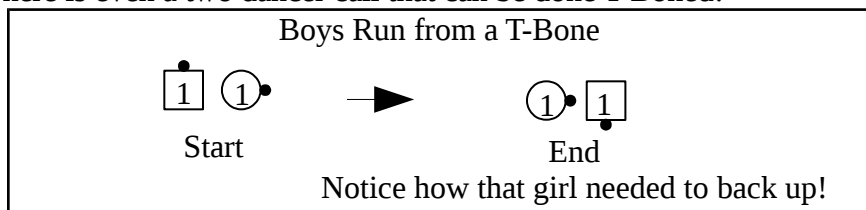


There are many other 8 dancer calls that can be done from a T-Bone.

While I stated earlier that a diamond is not usually considered a T-Bone formation, I would like to point out a call that normally starts in a line and ends in a box. However, the call can start in a diamond, in which case it ends in a T-Boned box. Here it is:



There is even a two dancer call that can be done T-Boned!



The secret to doing calls in T-Boned formations is to dance your own part strictly by the definition of the call. It is often important to know if you are a beau or a belle, or a leader or a trailer. Don't be confused by the dancers who may be near you facing some strange direction. Just do your part, and everything will work out in the end. It can be fun doing calls from some strange looking formations that you didn't even know would work.