

PARTNER ROTATION BOARD by Gary Hinze

The rotation board is an easy, reliable way for dancers to find a partner for each tip. It is not necessary to scurry around looking for someone before each tip. It will make your club more popular with single dancers and will serve those whose regular partner may be absent for an evening or a tip. It also gives people a chance to dance with different partners. Dancers can use it all the time or occasionally, as when their regular partner is absent or wants to take a break. Dancers can join at any time and leave at any time.



To join the rotation, write your name (as it appears on your badge) on one of the magnetic strips and put it at the end of a column, under MAN if you want to dance the boy's part or LADY if you want to dance the girl's part. Before the tip, check the board to see whose name is next to yours. This person will be your partner for that tip. They are likely to be nearby, also checking the board. Look for their name on their badge.

You can add your name to the board at any time. If you want to leave the rotation, immediately remove your name from the board. Leaving your name on the board is a promise to dance with whoever is matched with your name. It is considered poor form to leave someone without a partner. When a name is removed from the board, the name at the bottom of that column is brought up to fill the gap.



Between tips, if the lady's column is longer, take up the name from the top of that column, slide all the other names in that column up one place and put the removed name back at the bottom of the column. If the man's column is longer, slide the names down one place, take up the last name in that column and place it at the top. If the columns are equal, you may move either the man's column down or the lady's column up. The other column of names does not move. This picture shows the result of a rotation from the first picture.

The materials for making a rotation board may be found at Michael's craft stores. The 8.5" x 11" magnetic dry erase board and pen are Item # 50010 made by The Board Dudes, found in the bulletin board aisle with cork boards. The heading letters are from a set of Mrs. Grossman's Stickers, from which there are many styles to choose. The 3/16" dividing lines are chart tape or strips cut from a roll

of electrical tape. The 1/2" x 3" magnetic nametags are cut from a 1' x 2' roll of ProMag white vinyl magnetic sheet, #12383, with a steel straightedge and sharp single edge razor blade.

The letters will come off the magnetic strips with isopropyl alcohol.

The instruction sheet below should be placed on a table next to the board at your club or hoedown.

Square Dance Partner Rotation Board

The rotation board is an easy, reliable way for dancers to find a partner for each tip. It is not necessary to scurry around looking for a partner before each tip. It facilitates participation of single dancers, serves those whose regular partner is absent and gives people a chance to dance with different partners. Dancers may join or leave at any time.

- 1. To join the rotation, write your name as it appears on your badge on one of the white magnetic strips with the dry erase pen. Place the magnetic strip on the board at the end of a column, under "MAN" if you want to dance the man's position or under "LADY" if you want to dance the lady's position.*
- 2. Before each tip, check the board to find the name next to yours. That person will be your partner for that tip. They are likely nearby, also checking the board.*
- 3. You can add your name to the board at any time. If you want to leave the partner rotation, after your last tip danced in the rotation, you must immediately remove your name from the board. Leaving your name on the board is a promise to dance with whoever is matched with your name. It is considered poor form to leave someone without a partner. When a name is removed, the name at the bottom of the column is brought up to fill the gap.*
- 4. To rotate the names between tips, do one of the following: If the lady's column is the longer column, take up the top name from that column, slide all the other names in that column up one place and put the removed name back at the bottom of the column. If the man's column is the longer column, slide all the names in that column down one place, take up the bottom name from that column and place that name on the top of the column. If the columns are equal, you may move either the man's column down or the lady's column up. The other column of names does not move.*

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