

Straight to the Castle



Count: 96 **Wall:** 1 **Level:** Phrased / Contra Advanced - paso doble



Choreographer: Joey Warren – April 2017

Music: Halsey - Castle (Deluxe Edition)

***** Before you start teaching the dance, divide the class down the middle. You will have a Right side and a Left side. Leave some space in the center of the 2 “teams”.**

Everyone starts facing forward but with a gap between the 2 sides.

Section A: 64 counts

A1: Cross Side Recover Cross, Rock & Cross, Touch Step Together

1234 Step R fwd & across L, Rock/Step L out to L, Recover to R, Step L fwd/across R
 5-&-6 Rock R out to R side, Recover to L, Cross R over L
 7 – 8 Touch L out to L, Step L next to R (take weight on L)

A2: Step Kick, Step Kick (Traveling back), Coaster Step, Stomp Stomp

1234 Step back on R, Low strong kick fwd on L, Step back on L, Low strong kick fwd on R
 5-&-6 Step back on R, Step L back beside R, Step R fwd (not a huge step here)
 7 – 8 Stomp L foot beside R, Stomp R beside L (stay in place on these stomps)

A3: Cross Side Recover Cross, Rock & Cross, Touch Step Together

1234 Step L fwd & across R, Rock/Step R out to R, Recover to L, Step R fwd/across L
 5-&-6 Rock L out to L side, Recover to R, Cross L over R
 7 – 8 Touch R out to R, Step R next to L (take weight on R)

A4: Step Kick, Step Kick (Traveling back), Coaster Step, Stomp Stomp

1234 Step back on L, Low strong kick fwd on R, Step back on R, Low strong kick fwd on L
 5-&-6 Step back on L, Step R back beside L, Step L fwd (not a huge step here)
 7 – 8 Stomp R foot beside L, Stomp L beside R (stay in place on these stomps)

A5: Step Kick Hitch, Step Kick Hitch, Step Full Turn Sweep

1-&-2 Step fwd on R, Low kick fwd on L, Hitch L knee after kick (think marching motion on hitch)
 3-&-4 Step fwd on L, Low kick fwd on R, Hitch R knee after kick (think marching motion again here)
 5678 Step fwd on R, ½ Turn R stepping back on L, ½ Turn R stepping R fwd and sweeping L around over counts 7-8

A6: Rock Recover Step Back, Triple Step, Double Sweep

1234 Rock fwd on L, Recover back on R, Step back on L, Step R back beside L
 5-&-6

Step L fwd, Step R beside L, Step/Stomp L beside R as you lift R foot slightly off ground

7 – 8 Sweep R in small clockwise circle, Sweep R in clockwise circle making this one a bit larger

***** On 2nd sweep you actually have counts 8,1 to sweep so on count 1 finish sweep with R foot headed back behind L**

A7: Hold, Back Rock Recover, Side Step, Weave, Full Turn

1234 Hold, Rock R back behind L, Recover down on L, Step R to R side (think slow sailor step)

5-&-6 Step L behind R, Step R out to R, Cross L over R

7 – 8 ½ Turn R stepping R slightly fwd, ½ Turn R stepping L back

A8R: (RIGHT SIDE LAST 8 COUNT of A -This will turn Right Side to 9 o'clock to face left side)

Step Point-Step Point Traveling Back, Behind Side ¼ Turn Rock Recover

1234 Step back on R, Point L toe to L, Step back on L, Point R toe to R

5678 Step R behind L, Step L out to L, ¼ Turn L rocking fwd on R, Recover back L

A8L: (LEFT SIDE LAST 8 COUNT of A – This will turn Left Side to 3 o'clock to face right side)

Step Point-Step Point Traveling Back, Behind Side-Cross Over ¼ Turn

1234 Step back on R, Point L toe to L, Step back on L, Point R toe to R

5678 Step R behind L, Step L to L, Cross R over L, ¼ Turn R stepping back on L

You always do B traveling towards each other and you always do B at least twice following A! But, your 2nd B has different endings for each side so it turns both teams back to 12 o'clock. When I put the sequence, I will call this B Alt and the only thing that changes is the last 4 counts described by Left Side, Right Side below.

Section B & B Alt – 32 counts

B1: Fwd Stomp, Triple Fwd Kick, Step Drag Hook, And Hook And Hook

1-2&3 Heavy step fwd on R, Step L fwd, Step R next to L, Step L fwd as you kick R fwd

***** These are very distinct heavy steps, so not scooting like a triple but all individual steps**

4-5-6 Small step back on R, Big step back on L as you drag R towards, Hook R across L

&7&8 Small step fwd on R, Hook/Flick L foot behind R knee, Step back on L, Hook/Flick R across L

***** Open body towards R diagonal on the last hook to prep for full turn walk around to the R**

B2: Slow Walk, Slow Walk, Triple with a Sweep (All together making full turn R)

1 – 2 ¼ Turn R stepping R fwd (your leg is hitched across left until this point), Hold count 2

3 – 4 Step L fwd for 1/8 Turn R (1:30 diagonal R, 7:30 diagonal L), Hold count 4

5678 Finish making the full turn R by stepping R, L, R and sweeping L around over counts 7-8

B3: Weave w/ Heel Flicks, Weave w/ Heel Flicks

- 1 – 2 Cross L over R (coming out of that sweep w/ L), Step R to R side
 3&4& Cross step L behind R, Hook R across L, Small kick fwd on R, Flick R heel out to R
 5 – 6 Cross step R over L, Step L out to L side
 7&8& Cross step R behind L, Hook L across R, Small kick fwd on L, Flick L heel out to L

***** These hooks and flicks are fast! They should be very sharp and relatively low to the ground**

B4: Cross Point, Cross Point, Sweep-Sweep, Coaster Step

- 1234 Cross L over R, Point R toe out to R side, Cross R over L, Point L toe out to L side
 5 – 6 Small step back on L as you sweep R front to back, Small step back on R sweeping L back
 7-&-8 Step back on L, Step R back beside L, Step L fwd

B4R: (RIGHT SIDE LAST 8 COUNT of B Alt)

Cross Point, Cross Point, ¼ Step, ½ Back, Coaster Step

- 1234 Cross L over R, Point R toe out to R side, Cross R over L, Point L toe out to L side
 5 – 1/4 Turn L stepping L fwd, ½ Turn L stepping R back
 7-&-8 Step back on L, Step R back beside L, Step L fwd

****** This should turn Right Side back to 12 o'clock**

B4L: (LEFT SIDE LAST 8 COUNT of B Alt)

Cross Point, Cross Point, ¼ Cross, ½ Back, Coaster Step

- 1234 Cross L over R, Point R toe out to R side, Cross R over L, Point L toe out to L side
 5 – 6 ¼ Turn R stepping L fwd and across R, ½ Turn L stepping R back
 7-&-8 Step back on L, Step R back beside L, Step L fwd

****** This should turn Left Side back to 12 o'clock**

TAG 1: This is only done once. You always start and end Tags facing each other!!

The Tags are all done so the 2 teams are facing each other getting ready to battle in B Step Back Sweep, Step Back Sweep

- 1234 Step back on R as you sweep L out and behind R
 5678 Step back on L as you sweep R out and behind L

Back - Drag the Left, Side - Drag the Right

- 1234 Step back on R as you drag L beside R on count 4
 5678 Step L out to L side dragging R towards L

R Full Sweep Clockwise, R side – Drag the Left

- 1234 Exaggerated R full sweep clockwise keeping foot on the floor and slight bend in L knee
 5678 Step R out to R as you drag L towards it

L Full Sweep Anti Clockwise, L side – Drag the Right

- 1234 Exaggerated L full sweep anti clockwise keeping foot on the floor and slight bend in R knee

5678 Step L out to L as you drag R towards it

Step Fwd R, Slow ½ Turn To L, Step ½ Turn to L

1234 Step fwd on R, begin slow ½ turn to L over counts 234 (the teams backs are now facing)

5678 Finish ½ L by leaving weight on R (count 5), Step L fwd (6), step Fwd.on R (7), Pivot 1/2 turn Left (8)

***** The timing is tricky, counts 678 should be done when she says the lyrics “Headed straight for the” and then “Castle is the first count of part B**

TAG 2: Also, only done once. It is pretty much the same as Tag 1 but shorter and a change in last 4 counts. You do this facing each other entire time....no turns here.

Step Back Sweep, Step Back Sweep

1234 Step back on R as you sweep L out and behind R

5678 Step back on L as you sweep R out and behind L

Back - Drag the Left, Side - Drag the Right

1234 Step back on R as you drag L beside R on count 4

5678 Step L out to L side dragging R towards L

R Full Sweep Clockwise, R side – Drag the Left

1234 Exaggerated R full sweep clockwise keeping foot on the floor and slight bend in L knee

5678 Step R out to R as you drag L towards it

L Full Sweep Anti Clockwise, Rock-Recover, Coaster Step

1234 Exaggerated L full sweep anti clockwise keeping foot on the floor and slight bend in R knee

567&8 Rock fwd on L, Recover back on R, Step back on L, Step R beside L, Step L fwd

***** Again tricky timing....but the coaster like the ½ turn should be done on lyrics “Straight to The”**

TAG 3: Also, only done once. Sides will face each other entire time here as well.

Step Back Sweep, Step Back Sweep, Step Back Sweep, Coaster Step

1 – 2 Step back on R as you sweep L from front to back

3 – 4 Step back on L as you sweep R from front to back

5 – 6 Step back on R as you sweep L from front to back

***** Small hop steps back as you sweep if you are able for some styling**

7-&-8 Step back L, Step R back beside L, Step L fwd

Notes on Sequence.

Everyone faces 12 o'clock to do part A.....every time A is done at 12 o'clock by everyone!

Tags & B's are done with the 2 sides facing off!!!

B Alt is your repeat of B and a change in the last 4 counts to turn both teams back to 12 o'clock!

B Alt only happens twice cause the dance starts with A with everyone already facing front!!

SEQUENCE:

A, Tag 1, B, B-Alt, A, Tag 2, B, B-Alt, A, Tag 3, B, B, B, B (Ending...step fwd on R, Step L fwd Kick R low to ground)

***** The last 4 B's you stay facing each other the entire time so NO B Alt to turn back to 12**

**THIS SHEET IS REALLY JUST A REFERENCE FOR COUNTS AND SEQUENCE!
Please see video if you are having any issues as this is a difficult dance to write out and explain on paper.**

Contact: tennesseefan85@yahoo.com

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