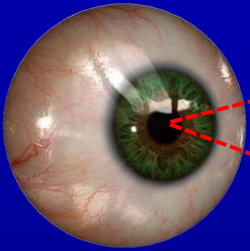# STARTING SIMPLE
Calling patter for new callers

"Sight Caller"

- Long sequences
- Cant read and watch
- Sounds like I am reading
- Timing is way off
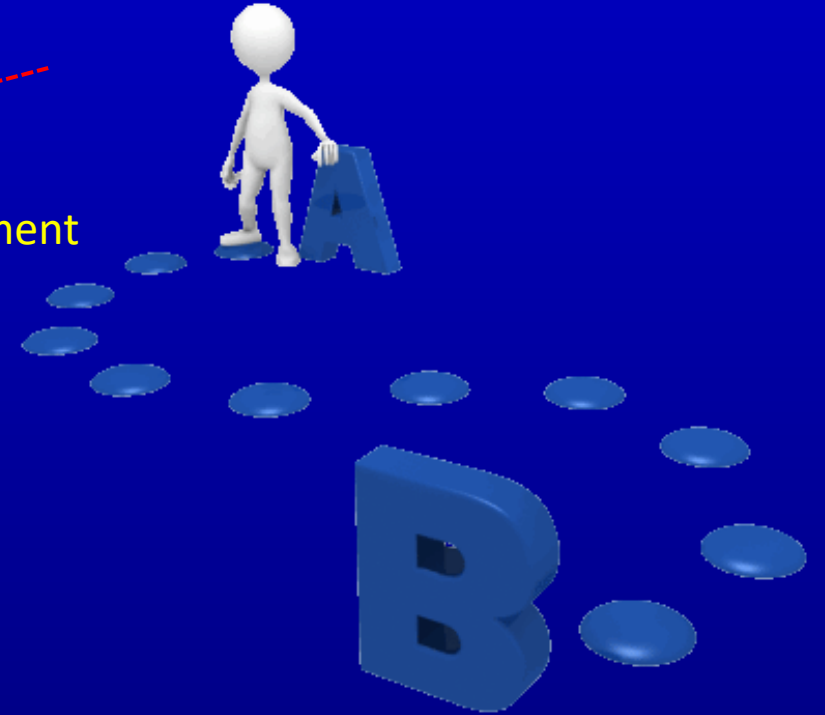- Cant remember where I was
- Who was where

New Callers do not need this stress

Mel Wilkerson
wilkerso@bigpond.net.au

Starting new as a sight caller.
DON'T

Choreographic management
Line to box – box to line
What hand is free
3 types of timing
Build a foundation first
Simple Modules

There is a lot to learn before sight calling
We have all been there

Don't even try at the start – IT IS NOT WORTH THE STRESS

Foundations First

- **No caller starts by learning to "Sight Call"**

- **Callers must know the foundation basics before learning to "Sight Call"**

- **Understand basic formations and 4 basic FASRs CB , PL, RBO & CL**

- **Short easy to remember puzzle pieces (zero modules that fit and work)**

- **Build your foundation skills and fundamentals**
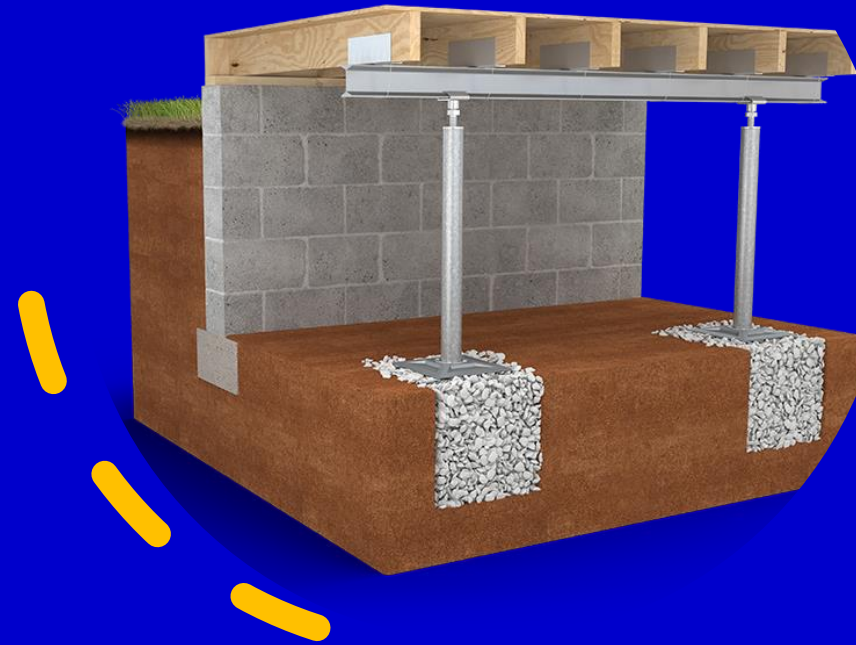
It takes hard work and practice

DEALING WITH SELF DOUBT

Most new callers know more than they think – just not how to use it.

Convincing yourself of what you know is the hardest part.

SO WHY DO WE FAIL SO OFTEN? – False expectation

- **Line zero + box zero + resolution technique = Sight caller**
- **Then thrown in the deep end to sink or swim**

Calling Foundations are like swimming lessons

The approach – Small Steps

New callers usually start practicing patter in one of two ways:

1. Practicing with random movements to "feel" the rhythm; or

2. Using their "known" entire singing calls as patter routines

<u>BOTH HAVE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES</u>

The second one uses actual choreography and callers learn to fit zero modules into the lines and boxes of the fixed routines
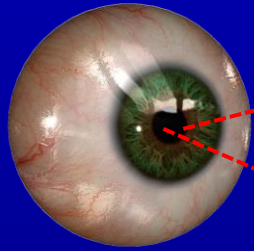
But how do you remember all the zeros and combinations and modules?
I would rather be a "sight caller" so I don't have to remember

SECRET: There is no such thing as pure "Sight Calling"

All "Sight Callers" use:

- Modules,
- prepared sequences,
- techniques
- Three basic tools in the box
- Practice makes better (not perfect)

MYTH BUSTED

They started small and learned how to use the "3 basic tools" to build bigger and better things

THE THREE BASIC TOOLBOX TOOLS

1. **Understanding the individual square dance movements (mechanics)**

2. **One guaranteed resolution technique – learn it and put it away – <u>it is a stress tab</u>.**

3. **Basic Foundation Modules**

   - **One line zero, and one box zero to start**

       - **Chicken plucker module**

       - **Conversion module – line to box / box to line**

       - **Invert and rotate module**

They started small and learned how to use the "3 basic tools" to build bigger and better things

Starting Modules

(Box zero) – Swing Thru, Girls Circulate, Boys Trade, Boys Run, Bend the Line, Touch ¼, All 8 Circulate, Boys Run…

(Line Zero) Pass Thru, Wheel & Deal, Double Pass Thru, First Couple Go Left, Next Couple Go Right

Getting Started – Two singing call figures

Heads Square Thru 4, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Ferris Wheel, Centers Pass Thru, Slide Thru, Square Thru 3, Swing Corner and Promenade

Heads Square thru 4, Right & Left Thru, Veer Left, Couples Circulate, Chain Down The Line, Star Thru, Pass Thru, Trade By, Swing Corner, Promenade

WE NOW HAVE LOTS OF MATERIAL TO PLAY WITH

REMEMBER

"Sight calling" is only one choreographic management tool. It takes time and effort to build a foundation to get there

- **DO NOT try and skip ahead**
- **Both you and the dancers suffer**
- **Understand what calls do**
- **Understand what call combinations do**
- **Don't <u>be forced </u>to rush.**

CAUTION

- **You are already halfway there. – Mix and match and build**
- **The dancers are dancing and happy.**
- **The building never stops. Each step solidifies the foundation**
- **Your confidence & the dancers' confidence in you grows.**

SUMMARY

- **There is no such thing as pure "sight calling" or "pure sight resolution". <u>It is set up recognition and memory</u>.**

- **Sight calling is watching the dancer and using what is known**

  - **Movement actions and reactions**

  - **Incorporating various kinds of modules**

  - **Applying different calling techniques**

What is a Sight Caller – <u>My definition</u>

A caller that watches the dancers, and who manipulates their actions by applying <u>individual movements</u>, <u>flow sequences</u>, <u>prepared and memorised modules</u> and <u>techniques</u> with the <u>practiced ability</u> to <u>manage three crucial points of timing</u> – lead time, command time and execution time to <u>give the dancers</u> a <u>comfortable and exciting dance</u> to which they can <u>feel good about themselves</u>.

Questions and Discussion