

Reading Contra Descriptions

Seminardauer / Duration: 90mins

Seminarinhalte / Seminar content:

- Information about the dance
- Music Notation
- Terminology for dancers and positions and their abbreviations
- Terminology for figures and their abbreviations
- Dance movement notation and timing
Visualizing transitions

Information about the dance

Title and Author

Source and information regarding the title of the dance

Music: jig, reel, hornpipe, waltz or "own tune"

Formation

Progression: ID double prog.; Becket ccw or cw; Triplet 231 or 312

Music Notation

(AABB)

A1, A2, B1, B2

1-8; 9-16; 17-24; 25-32;

Intro_ _ _ _

32 bars

64 beat sequence

_ _ _ _ ; _ _ _ _ etc.

Terminology for dancers and positions check your Contra/Country

Actives vs. 1's Inactives vs. 2's

the one below, neighbor, corner, shadow, lady on your left

Terminology for figures and abbreviations

hey for 4 instead of reel of 4

turn alone instead of the same way back

abbreviations: R&L thru; B & sw new N, men L 1.5 or 11/2

make sure you understand the abbreviations try to use ones that others can understand more or less at a glance

new creations: orbit; give and take

new figures or variations of older figures are generally explained in a description

if you are writing a dance consider adding info for "those who follow"

Dance movement notation and timing

Call notation = figure to be danced to the noted musical phrase

Beats needed to complete figure often shown in () ie slow square thru (16)



Beats needed to say command often shown _ _ _ _ , _ **two** ladies **chain** (bold shows beats)
 Beats needed for reaction time: not generally noted should be considered in command time

Visualizing transitions Use checkers or dance all positions

- Recognizing beginning and end positions
- Transitional variations of start and end positions
- Determination of point of progression
- Evaluating degree of difficulty

Make own card

- large enough to read at a glance
- use own abbreviations
- note problem spots Once and 1/2 = change places

Revisions

Nr.	Changes	Release	Contrib.	Date
1.	Writing the keyword list		CDB	~2005
x.	Separation from one general document with all topics in single documents with reviewed layout		CW	2010/01/17
2	Review		CDB	2014