

# 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 – ¼ 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 – 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.**

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**Last Update - 7th May 2017**