

What Line Dances Should I Teach To Beginners?

In trying to answer that question, I went searching for a short list of what to teach Ultra Beginner dancers.

I found that other put together lists based on 2- to 4-count patterns. e.g., "I want a dance with a shuffle forward" (2 counts), or "..a vine.." (3 counts), or "..a pair of toe struts.." (4 counts)

Rather than focus on tiny patterns, I searched all Ultra Beginner dances to find the **8-count patterns** that appeared most frequently. I then found a set of 10 dances that covered all the patterns at the top of the list.

Ultra-Beginner Dances

The top 25 8-count patterns found in Ultra Beginner dances are:

1. VINE, VINE
2. VINE, VINE (WITH TURN)
3. FORWARD X3, BACK X3
4. STROLL, STROLL
5. K-STEP
6. SIDE-TOUCH X2, VINE
7. RUMBA BOX SIDE & FORWARD (QQS)
8. TOUCH-TOGETHER X4
9. BACK X3, BACK X3
10. RUMBA BOX SIDE & BACK (QQS)
11. ROCKING CHAIR X2
12. TOE STRUT FORWARD (X4)
13. MAMBO SIDE, HOLD, MAMBO SIDE, HOLD
14. VINE, SIDE-TOUCH X2
15. FORWARD-TOUCH X2, BACK-TOUCH X2
16. SLOW STEP 1/4 TURN (X2)
17. SIDE-TOUCH X4
18. FORWARD-TOUCH X4
19. TOE STRUT BACK (X4)
20. CHARLESTON X2
21. TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH-TOGETHER, TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH-TOGETHER
22. TOE STRUT FORWARD (X2), ROCKING CHAIR
23. HEEL STRUT FORWARD (X4)
24. ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN
25. V-STEP

These 25 patterns appear over 1700 times in the Ultra Beginner dances found at Kickit.

To teach these common patterns (and more), you can use the following 10 dances, in any order. I believe that a dancer who learns these 10 dances is ready to progress to Beginner dances.

[Take Me Home](#) by Laura Kampschroeder

FORWARD X3, BACK X3
VINE, VINE (WITH TURN)
VINE, VINE

[Blame It On Your Heart](#) by Yvonne Krause-Schenck

K-STEP
TOUCH-TOGETHER X4
STROLL, STROLL
SLOW JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN

[Good Time Friends](#) by Pat Newell

TOE STRUT FORWARD (X4)
SIDE-TOUCH X2, VINE
ROCKING CHAIR X2
FORWARD X3, BACK X3
STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN, JAZZ BOX STEP

[Ireland's Call](#) by Russell Breslauer

RUMBA BOX SIDE & FORWARD (QQS)
RUMBA BOX SIDE & BACK (QQS)
SCISSOR, SCISSOR
MAMBO FORWARD, HOLD, MAMBO BACK, HOLD

[If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body](#) by Marla Brandon

FORWARD X3, CHARLESTON
BACK X3, CHARLESTON
VINE, SIDE-TOUCH X2
STROLL, STROLL
BACK X3, BACK X3
STEP 1/8 TURN, STEP 1/8 TURN, STEP 1/8 TURN, STEP 1/8 TURN
SIDE, DRAG, TOUCH TOGETHER, SIDE, DRAG, TOUCH TOGETHER

[Never Stop Falling In Love Rumba EZ](#) by Helaine Norman

SIDE-TOGETHER, FORWARD, HOLD, SIDE, TOGETHER, FORWARD, HOLD
SIDE-TOGETHER-BACK, HOLD, SIDE-TOGETHER-BACK, HOLD
MAMBO SIDE, HOLD, MAMBO SIDE, HOLD
STEP 1/4 TURN, TOGETHER, HIP X3

[Nimby EZ](#) by Micaela Svensson Erlandsson

SWIVEL HEELS-TOES-HEELS RIGHT, CLAP, SWIVEL HEELS-TOES-HEELS LEFT, CLAP
TOE STRUT FORWARD (X2), ROCKING CHAIR
SLOW STEP 1/4 TURN (X2)
VINE, VINE

[Cup Cake Dance](#) by Monica Varnell

HEEL STRUT FORWARD (X4)
TOUCH, HOOK, TOUCH, TOGETHER, TOUCH, HOOK, TOUCH, TOGETHER
TOE STRUT BACK (X4)

VINE, VINE

[Swing Time Learner](#) by Amber Blavin

FORWARD X8
SIDE-TOUCH X4
BACK X8
CHARLESTON X2

[She Is Not You](#) by Jen Shepherd

FORWARD X3, BACK X3
FORWARD-TOUCH X2, BACK-TOUCH X2
VINE, VINE
TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH-TOGETHER, TOUCH-TOUCH-TOUCH-TOGETHER

Beginner Dances

I then repeated the process for Beginner dances. Not counting the patterns taught in the 10 dances shown above, the top 24 8-count patterns found in Beginner dances are:

1. LINDY, LINDY
2. ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK, ROCK BACK, CHASSÉ FORWARD
3. ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE
4. ROCK SIDE, CROSSING CHASSÉ (X2)
5. JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN X2
6. FORWARD TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD, FORWARD TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD
7. CHASSÉ FORWARD, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK, ROCK BACK
8. ROCK FORWARD, TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK FORWARD, COASTER STEP
9. MONTEREY 1/4 TURN, MONTEREY 1/4 TURN
10. ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN
11. SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD, SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ BACK
12. TOUCH-TOUCH, TRIPLE IN PLACE, TOUCH-TOUCH, TRIPLE IN PLACE
13. ROCK SIDE, BEHIND-SIDE-CROSS, ROCK SIDE, BEHIND-SIDE-CROSS
14. STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD
15. ROCK SIDE, TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK SIDE, TRIPLE IN PLACE
16. CHASSÉ FORWARD X4
17. ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2
18. CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN
19. SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ SIDE (X2)
20. ROCK FORWARD, TRIPLE IN PLACE (X2)
21. MAMBO CROSS, MAMBO CROSS
22. CROSS-TOUCH-CROSS-TOUCH, JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN
23. JAZZ BOX STEP, JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN
24. SIDE-TOUCH X2

These 24 patterns appear over 3900 times in the Beginner dances found at Kickit.

To teach these common patterns (and more), you can use the following 20 dances, in any order.

I believe that a dancer who learns these 20 dances is ready to progress to Low Intermediate dances.

[From Grassland To Beijing](#) by BM Leong

ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK, ROCK BACK, CHASSÉ FORWARD
ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE
STEP 1/4 TURN, CROSSING CHASSÉ, ROCK SIDE, CROSSING CHASSÉ
LINDY, LINDY

[Take That](#) by Rita Masur

LINDY, LINDY
ROCK FORWARD, TRIPLE IN PLACE (X2)
STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD
ROCK STEP COASTER STEP, ROCK STEP COASTER STEP
ROCKING CHAIR, JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN
ROCK SIDE, CROSSING CHASSÉ (X2)
ROCK FORWARD, TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK FORWARD, COASTER STEP
TOUCH-TOUCH, HEEL BALL TOUCH (X2)

[Saddle Up](#) by Diana Bishop

SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD, SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ BACK
TOUCH-TOUCH, CHASSÉ FORWARD (X2)
MONTEREY 1/4 TURN, MONTEREY 1/4 TURN
TOUCH-TOUCH, TRIPLE IN PLACE, TOUCH-TOUCH, TRIPLE IN PLACE

[Daddy's Hands](#) by Sue Webb

TOUCH-TOUCH, TRIPLE IN PLACE, TOUCH-TOUCH, COASTER STEP
FORWARD TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD, FORWARD TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD
JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN X2

[Let's Groove](#) by Anne Herd

FORWARD-TOUCH X4
ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN
WEAVE FOR 3 & TOUCH, WEAVE FOR 3 & TOUCH
CROSS-TOUCH-CROSS-TOUCH, JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN

[Brokenhearted](#) by Nancy Rosera

WEAVE, LINDY
CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN
JAZZ BOX STEP, JAZZ BOX STEP WITH 1/4 TURN
ROCKING CHAIR

[Sweet Wonderful You](#) by Sue Ann Ehmann

CHASSÉ FORWARD, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK, ROCK BACK
FORWARD-TOUCH SIDE (X4)
ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2
FORWARD-TOUCH, BACK-TOUCH, TURN 1/4 RIGHT, FORWARD-TOUCH-BACK-TOUCH

[Love To See You Tonight](#) by Rene And Reg Mileham

ROCK FORWARD TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK BACK TRIPLE IN PLACE
ROCK SIDE, TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK SIDE, TRIPLE IN PLACE
TURNING SAILOR, TURNING TRIPLE, TURNING SAILOR, CROSS/ROCK CROSS
ROCK SIDE, BEHIND-SIDE-CROSS, ROCK SIDE, BEHIND-SIDE-CROSS

[Hey Little Devil](#) by Lorraine Macmillan

FORWARD X3, FORWARD X3
BACK X3, TOUCH, BACK X3, TOUCH
MAMBO CROSS, MAMBO CROSS
MAMBO STEPS FORWARD AND BACK (PROGRESSIVE)
VINE, VINE
CHASE TURN X2
K-STEP
STEP 1/4 TURN (X2), ROCKING CHAIR

[A Rose Of The Night](#) by SoonYoung-Bae

LINDY, TURN 1/4, LINDY
CHASSÉ FORWARD X4
ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2, ROCK STEP, COASTER STEP
STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN, JAZZ BOX STEP
SIDE-TOUCH X2

[Space Cowboy](#) by Levi J. Hubbard

CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/4 TURN
KICK-KICK-TRIPLE IN PLACE, KICK-KICK-TRIPLE IN PLACE
LINDY, LINDY
MONTEREY 1/2 TURN, MONTEREY 1/2 TURN

[A Kiss To Build A Dream On](#) by Annette Lapp

FORWARD X2, CHASSÉ FORWARD, FORWARD X2, CHASSÉ FORWARD
WEAVE, SIDE-TOUCH X2
ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/8 TURN, STEP 1/8 TURN
V-STEP

[River Bank](#) by Maryloo

ROCK FORWARD, TRIPLE IN PLACE (X2)
ROCK BACK TRIPLE IN PLACE, ROCK BACK TRIPLE IN PLACE
STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD
SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ SIDE (X2)
CHASSÉ FORWARD X2, BACK X4
STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/4 TURN

[Change My Ways Beginner](#) by Fran Lineweaver

ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE 1/4 TURN
SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD, SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD
ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2, JAZZ BOX TOUCH
ROCK SIDE, CROSSING CHASSÉ (X2)
BACK 1/4 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, ROCK STEP, COASTER STEP

SIDE-TOUCH X2, CHASSÉ FORWARD X2

[Rock The Clock](#) by John Dembiec

WEAVE, MAMBO CROSS
WEAVE, SIDE 1/4 TURN, FORWARD, HOLD
ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/2 TURN (X2)
ROCK FORWARD, STEP BRUSH, ROCK FORWARD, STEP TOGETHER
SWIVEL HEELS-TOES-HEELS RIGHT, HOLD, SWIVEL HEELS-TOES-HEELS LEFT, HOLD
MONTEREY 1/4 TURN, FORWARD X4

[Spanish Eyes](#) by DJ Country Cowboy Stafke Peeters

ROCK FORWARD, CHASSE BACK TURNING 1/2, CHASSÉ FORWARD TURNING 1/2, ROCK BACK
SKATE-SKATE, CHASSÉ FORWARD, SKATE-SKATE, CHASSÉ FORWARD
SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ SIDE, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE
CROSS ROCK RECOVER CHASSÉ SIDE 1/4 TURN, STEP 1/2 TURN CHASSÉ FORWARD

[Every Hour, Every Day](#) by Lee Lark

HOLD
VINE, VINE
ROCKING CHAIR, STEP 1/2 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD
CHASSÉ FORWARD, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ BACK TURNING 1/2, CHASSÉ FORWARD
VINE, VINE (WITH TURN)
JAZZ BOX STEP, JAZZ BOX STEP

[Locomotion](#) by Ju-Hyun Oh

FORWARD X3, BACK, BACK, COASTER STEP
STROLL, STEP 1/4 TURN X2
WEAVE, LINDY
VINE (WITH TURN), ROCKING CHAIR
CROSS-TOUCH-CROSS-TOUCH, JAZZ BOX STEP

[Turn On The Radio](#) by Laura Kampschroeder

CHASSÉ FORWARD X2, CHASSÉ BACK X2
VINE, VINE (WITH TURN)
FORWARD, PIVOT TURN X2, TOUCH, VINE (WITH TURNS)
CHASSÉ FORWARD X4
HIP X8
SIDE-TOUCH X2, ROCK STEP, STOMP STOMP

[People Go Places](#) by Linda O'Farrell

KICK-KICK-TRIPLE IN PLACE, KICK-KICK-COASTER STEP
STEP 1/4 TURN, CHASSÉ FORWARD, ROCK STEP COASTER STEP
SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ SIDE, ROCK FORWARD, CHASSÉ SIDE 1/4 TURN
SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ BACK, SIDE-TOGETHER, CHASSÉ FORWARD