

Rustic Reel

Presented by [Nick and Melissa Enge](#)
at Texas Camp 2024

The Rustic Reel is a 19th century dance for trios facing trios. It's one of our students' all-time favorite dances.

Music: "[Wake Me Up](#)" by Avicii

Formation: A longways set of trios facing trios, each with one Lead in the middle of two Follows. (When actually dancing the dance, traditional roles don't matter, i.e., anyone can be in any position, but for the purpose of the description, using the role names will be helpful). The Leads and right-side Follows technically start R, while the left-side Follows technically start L, but the choreography will naturally get those feet free, so don't overthink it.

Galop with the Right Follow (8 counts): The Lead of each trio approaches the opposite Follow to his right, takes open two hands with her, and they Galop to his right (i.e., away from the other couple) for four counts (1-and-2-and-3-and-4). Then they Galop to his left (i.e., toward the other couple) for three counts (5-and-6-and-7). After these three counts, he leaves her in her home place and continues galoping (and-8-and) to meet the opposite Follow to his left, passing back to back with the other Lead.

Galop with the Left Follow (8 counts): Repeat the same thing with the opposite Follow to the left, this time traveling out to his left (i.e., away from the other couple, 1-and-2-and-3-and-4) and back home to his right (i.e., toward the other couple, 5-and-6-and-7-and-8). At the end, each Lead leaves this second Follow in her home place and falls back into his home place.

Forward and Back and Pass Through to the Next (16 counts): All go Forward toward your opposite (1, 2, 3, 4) and Back home (5, 6, 7, 8). (This is often accompanied by clapping both hands with your opposite on count 4.) Then take eight steps forward, passing by the right shoulders to approach a new trio (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). Specifically, the Leads will want to approach their right opposites to seamlessly transition into the first Galop.

Repeat from the beginning.

End Effects: When each trio reaches the top or bottom of the hall, having no one else to dance with, they turn around and wait out one repetition of the dance, then dance with the next trio coming at them the next time around. If you want to keep things simple, keep the roles the same (i.e., the left person stays the left person, the center person stays the center person, and the right person stays the right person). But if you want to mix it up, you can trade places in your trio during the end effects, to experience another part of the dance. (Note that if you

all simply flip 180°, the left and right person will already be changing roles!) Just be sure that if you do this, you know what you're supposed to be doing in your new role!

Other Notes: When choosing partners for this dance, note that you never actually get to do the fun part (the Galop) with your partners, only with your opposites.