



Edinburgh University Swing Dance  
Society notes on:  
**Charleston (Lindy-style)  
variations**



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## **Class notes** (Music: Safornia B Lindy Tea Dance 2)

*This class was not a routine so much as a challenge. We asked you to dance a whole piece using (Lindy-style) Charleston and nothing else. Having watched what moves you chose, we then added to your repertoire by showing you some moves from the list below.*

*Ladies, explanations are as always from the leader's point of view because it is up to him to lead you through these, not up to you to remember them. Leaders, obviously the aim is not for you to learn all of these by heart, but rather to get the principles so you can make up your own variations and links.*

### **Side-by-side position**

- Basic Ch
- Slide on 7-8
- Stomp on 5
- Stretch leg fwd on 5, leaning back.
- Turn out on 7-8 and splits on 1-2 as you come back side by side
- Johnny's drop (rock step kick cross rock step lunge -)
- French twiddles (rock step kick change change change – and)
- Turning Charleston (inside turns)
- Turning Charleston (outside turns: RockStep kick-down[3,4] kick-down separating[5,6], kick outer leg (man L)turn[7,8]-kick same leg again–down[1,2], kick other leg (manR) – turn [3,4], kick down [5,6], keep turn going and let go; kick down[manL] turning on spot[7,8], kick down(man R)[1,2] kick down joining up in normal side by side (man L) [3,4] – then finish regular Charleston.
- Roll-out (use the front hand connection for this). RockStep, kick setting up compression, lead turn out before the down; kick and kick and kick down to turn right round to sbs.
- Camel walks (drunken Charleston): rock step opening out, kick, cross inwards down, rock step, kick outwards down – needs a drunken loose look.

### **Sbs to facing link:**

- Rock step, on kick down lead her out to face you, lady will kick (/tap) behind herself on 5-6 and in front on 7-8 as long as the man leads a decent body lean and/or momentum.
- To exit back to sbs, 'pull' her back on 7-8

**Facing Charleston variations:** (these are explained from beat 5, man R fwd lady R back)

- Hacksaw: [5] man kick R fwd-in-fwd-in-back-down; [3] kick L back-in-back-in-fwd-down; [1] kick R fwd-in-fwd-in-back-down; [7] kick L in, leading the lady to turn right round a/c [1] tap L back (lady will kick fwd under you – you are now back in the normal facing Charleston on normal timing).

**Sbs to Tandem link:**

- 6 beat basic (rock step kick down kick down) followed by
- 10 beat transition (rock step kick down kick down turning her out, kick down kick down)

**Tandem variations**

- Basic Tandem Ch
- Ninja Tandem Ch (turn a little to left – both of you, on 3-4, lean to left and kick out with R on 5, turning more as a unit, finish facing 180 deg from original direction. The man travels more).
- Push out
- Arm over
- Turn her in front
- Elbow spin: rock step, on kick down use your L hand to engage her elbow, on 5-8 spin her a/c. You can keep the usual footwork or crazy legs (man).
- Ron & Claire cross to right: rock step, kick L across R on 3, leading lady carefully, down, finish normally.
- Ron & Claire's pantomime horse: Rock step, kick L, cross it in air over to R, kick it fwd again, down, kick R, cross it over L in air, kick it again, down. Repeat or power forward with your L for a normal 3-4 kick down, and finish a normal Charleston
- Hesitations: rock step kick down – hold (for 2 or 4 beats), then finish with the R kick and kick down.

**Tandem to promenade link:**

- Rock step, kick down turning left 90 deg, kick down with R, then you are ready for the kick-turn-kick down sequence of the promenade.

**Promenade variations: (these all start on the 7-8 left kick).**

- Turn back to Tandem [7]Kick L turn kick down, [3]kick R turn kick down, [7]L kick turn kick down, [3]R kick turn kick down leading lady to turn right round a/c

and yourself 90 deg a/c to catch her in tandem. Start tandem (on 7: you can always use a hesitation to sort that out).

### **Promenade to low hand-to-hand link:**

- [7] Kick [L] turn kick down, kick [R] turn *down* [5] (no kick) - pause but let her momentum start to disconnect her from you (shrug her off on 6 if you need to); rock step her on 7-8, stepping on L yourself, enter low hand to hand with R-R on 1.

### **Tandem to hip hold Charleston**

- Rock step, leading with a shoulder push on her L shoulder just like a push out. [5] lead her and you into a rock step facing each other, giving her some rotation on the rock step, [7] kick down bringing her (180 deg a/c) into a hip hold and keep her weight over to R to make sure she puts her foot down. You will both be ready to rock step L.

### **Hip hold Charleston**

- Basic – rock step both left, kick down, then (R) kick and kick down.
- Camel walks: rock step, kick cross (L over R) down, rock step, kick cross (R over L).
- Sliding doors (a variation on camel walks). Do a set of camel walks and move back a bit so that you are still to the side of the lady but behind her, and on the last 7-8 (R kick) do *not* put your foot down, but make the lady feel that you have (*fake* the weight change with your arms so she has to move to the L of you – this is an exception to our usual rule about leading with the body). [1] rock step (man on R, lady on L), kick down, lady moving to R and man crossing behind her, [5] rock step, kick down lady moving to L and man crossing. Repeat as much as you like. To finish, on the final R kick [3], again do not put your leg down but use it to join the lady on her R foot rock step on [5].
- Suzy Q: rock step kick fwd and ‘fall’ to your right, crossing L over R, [4] weight down on L in Suzy Q fashion, open to R with R on 5, do another Suzy Q on [6-7], step on L on [8], rock step on L on [1-2], kick R fwd on [3], and go into Suzy Qs to the left on [4-5] and [6-7] then step on R on 8. Note the second half of this takes more careful leading.

### **Hip Hold Charleston to low-hand-to-hand link**

- Rock step (L), leading her to start to turn out to face you by shrugging her out and using your L hand to push her gently. Use the [3-4] kick down to turn her out. Both rock step on R, lead her to turn; go into low hand to hand R-R first kick on 7.

### **Hip Hold Charleston to tandem link:**

- Rock step (L), leading her to start to turn out to face you by shrugging her out and using your L hand to push her gently. Use the [3-4] kick down to turn her out. Both rock step on R [5,6], kick down on 7-8 leading her to turn her back to you

and collect her in tandem hold: keep her weight over to the right to make sure she understands to step on her R on 8.

**Side by side to low hand to hand link:**

- Begin with side by side inside turns. On [5], use a fake lead (ie an exception to our normal rule of leading with the body) to make the lady think you are turning inside so she does, you just kick your R but do not turn yourself; kick R again on [7] – lady will finish her left foot kick and kick down. Catch R-R, and start the low hand to hand on [1]

**Low hand to hand**

- Basic low hand to hand Ch
- Butterfly

**Low hth to Tandem link**

- Butterfly to turn (when gained R-R, big kick pulling arm back, rock step, RL, turn her a/c while kicking R-R)
- Variation on the above: instead of going straight into Tandem, catch her for a leg scrabble lift and spend 4 or 8 beats doing that.

**Free Charlestons**

- Travelling Charleston: kick R, hop on L, step (round c/w) to R on R, kick L, cross L behind, open R leg to R, kick left in front, drop weight on L. Can do the whole thing in mirror reverse too, in which case you start by kicking L and you turn a/c.
- Throw the baby