

RSCDS Toronto Association: Guide to Class Levels

So what do we mean by Basic, Intermediate and Advanced?

Basic (Level 1)

Basic dancers require a lot of coaching. They need further work on basic steps and formations since they may not be proficient in them all. Basic dancers usually need to walk through a dance from more than one position to learn it and will need help to recover from a mistake.

Basic formations include:

Advance and retire
Allemande for 2 or 3 couples
Back to back
Balance in line
Casting
Chain formations: grand chain, ladies' chain and men's chain
Corner formations: turn corners and partner, set to and turn corners, set to corners
Cross and cast
Cross over
Figure of eight
Hands across
Hands round and back
Lead down the middle and up
Petronella turn
Poussette (in reel and jig time)
Promenade for three couples
Reels of four
Reels of three, right shoulder, left shoulder, 6 and 8 bars
Rights and lefts
Set and cast
Setting in line
Stepping up and down
Turns

Basic steps include:

Slip step, Skip change of step, Pas de basque, Strathspey travelling, Strathspey setting

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Intermediate (Level 2)

An intermediate dancer is comfortable with Basic formations noted above and comfortable with many of the Intermediate and Advanced formations below. By comfortable, we mean that when asked to do a dance containing basic formations, intermediate dancers are able to do so with only a brief reminder. Intermediate dancers should be able to do the basic formations without walking them at all, but would need to be taught the variations in entry and exit in those formations. Intermediate dancers can usually recover from mistakes on their own so that the dance can continue despite the mistake.

Advanced (Technique)

An advanced dancer is proficient in all basic and advanced steps and intermediate and advanced formations. They should be able to do all the basic formations including variations in entry and exit. Advanced dancers can learn a dance of moderate complexity from a talk through and perform the dance with good footwork, handing, phrasing, covering and teamwork. Advanced dancers can not only recover quickly from their mistakes but help less experienced dancers to recover.

Intermediate and advanced formations include:

Bourrel
Double Triangles and Crown Triangles
En Rond
Espagnole
Knot
Rondel
Set and Link
Set and Link for 2 or 3 couples
Set and Rotate
Spoke
Spurtle
Strathspey Poussette
Targe
Tourbillon
Tournée

Intermediate and advanced steps include:

Glasgow Highlanders
Highland Schottische

With thanks to the Toronto Teachers Panel and the Cincinnati and New Zealand Branches