

# Guidelines for Leveling a Routine

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As an organization, the TCC is in the enviable position of being a highly respected clogging organization throughout the United States. The noticeable lack of a definitive system of leveling routines has come to our attention in the past and continues to be a problem, thus the establishment of such a system became a pressing need. As Chair of the Rally Advisory Committee, I am in the unique position of being the liaison between the Rally Chairs and the TCC officers and members of the TCC. As such, I have taken the initiative to write some guidelines for Texas instructors, based on several resources that were available to me. The resulting guidelines, given below, have the approval of Molly Martin, TCC President, and have been proofed by several respected members of the TCC who have shown consistently good choreography and leadership. We hope you will use them as a guide as you write and assign levels to your routines for the Texas Cloggers Rally, or any other workshops where you are appearing as a choreographer/instructor. Our goal is not to lock-step anyone, but rather, to assist our choreographers in writing routines that are suitable for the generally recognized levels that we use on our cue sheets. These guidelines should help produce well-written routines that are respected, loved, and above all, DANCED, everywhere!

## MUSICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Speed of the music

Length of the music

“Evenness” of the musical phrases

Are there evenly grouped 8-beat phrases throughout, or does it have 2- or 3-beat breaks?

Sequence and/or repetition of the musical phrases

## STEP CONSIDERATIONS:

How difficult are the steps?

Do the steps flow from one to the next?

Do the steps match the sounds from the music?

Does the music cue the steps to the dancer?

## RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND STEPS:

Note: While the list of steps for Beginner and Basic (Beginner Plus) should remain relatively constant, the Intermediate and Advanced lists are *not* intended to be

exhaustive, but rather, representative of the types of steps that may be found at each level. Consider adding "EZ" or "Plus" to any of the Level names based on (1) the number of steps from the preceding level or succeeding level and (2) the above musical considerations. Examples: If an intermediate routine contains mostly Beginner Plus steps with only a few Intermediate ones, consider designating it as an EZ Intermediate. If it contains mostly Intermediate Level steps and one or two Advanced steps, or the music is uneven or lengthy, consider designating it as Intermediate Plus.

Beginner:

Basic  
Fancy Double  
Triple  
Rocking Chair  
Brush  
Double Step  
(Doubletoe Step)  
Chain  
Shuffle (Drag/ Slide)  
Toe-Heel

Basic (Beginner Plus)

Clog Vine  
Triple Kick  
Double Basic  
Triple Stomp  
Stomp Double  
Karate Turn  
Charleston  
Turkey  
Cowboy

Intermediate

Scotty  
Joey  
Mt. Goat  
Loop Vine  
Hard Step  
Traveling Shoes  
High Horse  
Syncopated  
Donkey  
Simone  
Samantha

Advanced

Double Doubles  
Skuff It (Tenn. Walking Step)  
Time Step  
Canadian  
Specialized Steps  
Crimp Roll  
Pull Back  
Canadian Eight