

## Crossover Breaks Part 2 - Variations

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In the previous issue, the Crossover break was described as a popular figure with application to a variety of rhythm dances. Its most prominent feature is the alternating side-by-side dance positions and single handholds. The traditional forward Crossover break is relatively straightforward in its most basic form. This article highlights several Crossover break variations in cha cha. Each variation has its own

unique attribute that adds a stylish quality to this figure. Crossover variations can be danced alone or as an add-on to the standard forward Crossover break.

Fallaway Crossover breaks are perhaps the most popular variation. This figure commences in the same manner as a forward Crossover break however there is a distinct difference. Instead of stepping forward into the Crossover to end in a left side-by-side position, both partners step side and slightly back into fallaway position. They continue to turn in opposite directions from each other to end in a right side-by-side position. The key entry step into this variation is the 'side and slightly back' foot position. The lady follows in the same manner so that both partners end in fallaway position. This dance position is similar to promenade moving backward. Partners continue to turn a total of 1/4 as they end in the figure's hallmark side-by-side dance position. In the forward Crossover break both partners step side and slightly forward to enter into the Crossover with man's left hand to lady's right handhold to end in left side-by-side position. In the fallaway variation, partners step side and slightly back with the opposite handhold, i.e., man's right hand to lady's left handhold to end in right side-by-side position. This is typically repeated on the other side in similar fashion with man's left hand to lady's right handhold to end in left side-by-side position.

Continuous Crossover breaks are another variation in cha cha. They consist of a forward Crossover break that is danced to the rhythm 1 2 3 4 & 1 2 3. At this point the first Crossover is completed with a back rock on count 3. As partners turn to face each other the man raises his right hand to 'patty cake' with the lady's left hand. In doing so he stops the progression of the chasse that would have normally followed. Instead he leads the lady back into another Crossover break on the same side. The total count at this point in the figure is now 1 2 3 4 & 1 2 3 4 1. This is followed by another Crossover break on the same side on count 2 3. The man can lead a number of continuous Crossovers on the same side or simply lead a



chasse to a Crossover break on the opposite side followed by continuous Crossover breaks on that side in the same manner. This is an attractive variation because it interrupts the chasse action and thereby breaks the repetitious 4& syncopated chasse rhythm.

Double Crossover breaks in cha cha are yet another variation in which the Crossover rocks are danced twice consecutively on each side. The figure commences as in the normal forward Crossover pattern. This variation is unique in that the forward and back rock is repeated twice in a row. The 1ST Crossover occurs in the normal manner on counts 2, 3, and is then immediately repeated on counts 4, 1. This action consists of a forward Crossover, back rock then another forward Crossover, and back rock all repeated with the side-by-side position maintained throughout. The same pattern can be repeated on the other side. This variation also breaks the repetitious 4& syncopated chasse rhythm as with the Continuous Crossover variation.

Crossover variations can be combined with forward Crossovers or other variations. For example, a Continuous Crossover may be danced several times on one side and then repeated several times on the other side or simply followed by a single forward Crossover to end the figure. Conversely, a forward Crossover can be danced first and then followed by a variation. There are many ways to combine the various elements of this figure. All of the variations serve to provide a distinctive styling that embellishes the appearance of the Crossover break. The most common finish for a Crossover break is a lady's underarm turn. Partners may also choose to dance a solo switch turn or a pair of solo switch turns, one on each side. These endings serve to provide additional styling to the Crossover and its variations as well as to create a linkage to the following figure.

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Enrollment with a partner is recommended. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and leather bottom shoes or dance shoes. Sneakers or rubber bottom shoes are not recommended.

**Instructor:** Richard Fiore — Dual Licentiate, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing

**Location:** Adelphi University, One South Ave., Garden City, NY 11530 - Woodruff Hall Dance Studio

**To Register:** \$125/person for general admission. Call Noreen DeNicola at (516) 877-4260 or email ndenicola@adelphi.edu