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# QuickStart To Social Dancing: An Easy-To-Follow Guide For Beginners (QuickStart Dance)



## Synopsis

Beginners, Wedding Dancers, and those with single milestone dates can learn on their own effectively enough to just get by, saving hundreds of dollars in lessons for any simple social occasion or first dance presentation. This book is written as if Jeff is right there with the student giving a private lesson. With over 15 years of teaching experience he has anticipated what the student must encounter in their learning experience and is right there with a useful solution. 1. First in the Quickstart to Dance Series with Jeff Allen's breakthrough technique that is changing the methods that social dancing is being taught. 2. Lays down the foundation in the six major dances including: Foxtrot, Waltz, Rumba, Merengue, Swing, and Cha-cha to use on your own or to compliment your dance lessons 3. A virtual Bible for the bride and groom's first dance at their wedding. The only text in print that teaches how to prepare for and conduct the 1st Wedding Dance! 4. Perfect for the beginner and occasional dancer at weddings, resort vacations, parties, and cruises. 5. Using language for the laymen or non-dancer, the easy-to-understand physical references and directions make this title a must for the beginner reader/user.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My name is Diane Howard. I have been a dance instructor for over 10 years in the Northeast corridor. I take great exception to the negative reviews of Mr. Allen's book Quickstart to Social Dancing, especially in comparison to another book that I own by Mr. Stephenson called The

Complete Book of Ballroom Dancing. Here is why: 1. Quickstart guides the beginner and helps develop the most important basic dance skills in systematic and incremental fashion. Foundational skills like correct postural movement with a partner, rhythmic movement, and leg action both for the smooth, swing, and Latin dances are wonderfully described in Quickstart. They are either completely omitted or where included, erroneously described the so-called Complete Book! 2. Quickstart guides you through a primary development with easy to use physical instructions and analogies with a direct goal in mind. That goal is to be able to dance, WITHOUT ERROR, the most fundamental patterns in six major social dances. The Complete Book starts at stages beyond the beginner with a syllabus that assumes that a dance couple already KNOWS HOW to move together. They do not and will not simply by reading a syllabus, all competent dance instructors know this! 3. Quickstart does a terrific job in addressing these primary and necessary functions. The Complete Book leaves you to your own devices. 4. The Complete Book designed for the next stage of dancing, diversity in patterns, unfortunately is laden with serious error that the beginner would certainly not be aware of in their attempt to follow its syllabus. Quickstart does not pretend to be more than it is, simply the best guide for the beginning stages of your social dance experience.

As one insightful reviewer mentioned all of the reviews for this book are uncannily love or hate. Though I have my own opinion of this book, I recognize that another Love-Hate review is not going to help you decide whether or not to spend your money, so I'm going to try to break the division and write an objective review with a neutral star rating. I believe the strict separation of ratings is due to differing expectations. As a beginner you are looking for a book with easy to follow instructions and patterns on how to make everyone off the dance floor jealous. A CD of appropriate music with someone counting in the background would be nice, perhaps some full scale foot print charts, maybe a pop-up partner if you're single. The beginner, however, has greatly underestimated the complexity of dancing and devotion it takes to become a good dancer. As an instructor you hope people will read a book that doesn't promise beginning steps in chapter 1, lifts and splits in chapter 2, and have an addendum with costume patterns. You hope the beginner will appreciate that every step in a dance is far more than moving a foot from A to B, and that some people devote their lives to dancing well (Ballroom dancing is now an Olympic Sport to those unaware). If you had your way students would spend their first month simply standing with a good dance frame and maybe by month two they could take their first step. Instructors sometimes forget, however, the passion and anxiousness of the beginner. That being said this book offers the beginner basic steps for three dances. Realize, however, that the basic Merengue step is extremely simple, And that the Waltz

and Foxtrot steps are nearly identical (because the foxtrot can also be danced in the Waltz box pattern).

I am an Orthopedic Surgeon and my wife is an RN who specializes in operating room procedures. My first experience with the book Quickstart to Social Dancing came in 1997 with the first edition that I understand has since sold out. We were getting married at that time and were faced with the scary prospects of having to dance at our wedding! A Sunday dance class was publicized through our hospital offered that suited our schedules - we jumped at the chance. The teacher (a well known professional) did something that was very interesting, he distributed copies of Quickstart to Social Dancing to all our new classmates. We were told that just like our schooling, "We would have a teacher and a text book." In addition he said, "You will soon find that learning to social dance and partner each other is generally an awakening because of its many misconceptions and fears. Mr. Allen does the very best job of dispelling these fears and presents a simple, concise, and cumulative approach to social dancing in his book that has previously been written!" It is my intention here to echo these statements! We return to this website from time to time to order this and his other books both as gifts for my friends and for ourselves. This time we were going to order his book, Quickstart to Tango. We already own Quickstart to Swing and agree with those who have heralded this book as the most comprehensive book ever written about Swing dancing. Quickstart to Social Dancing in it of itself, will definitely provide the most basic of dance choreography to allow for the beginner to learn by themselves - I have no doubt of this!! No couple, ENGAGED to be married, should be without this text!

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