

AUTHOR'S COMMENT



JUST AS THERE IS AN INVISIBLE “GLASS CEILING” in the business world, there is also a “glass floor” in the dance community; however, this invisible barrier does not obstruct a motivated, average dancer from becoming a great dancer, it just delineates his rite of passage. The glass dance floor is simply a metaphor for an accomplished dancer’s minimum skill set. It is a technical baseline of excellence for dancers who want to progress out of the realm of mediocrity and experience the joy of connectedness that comes from learning how to confidently *project* their “center” forward and *move* dynamically. Transcending this glass dance floor with its mental and physical challenges is an achievable goal that requires years of lessons and practice; however, an in-depth discussion of the skills necessary to accomplish this objective is beyond the scope of my manual. *Imperial Swing Dancing* does not address advanced aspects of musicality or the subtle distinctions between *projection* and *movement*; instead, it is a one of a kind compilation of East Coast Swing moves that are danced Imperial style: within a rectangular dance space called a “slot.” Instructors from every Midwest Swing Dance Federation club around the St. Louis area have been teaching these exciting moves for years in their classes and workshops. The manual presents this collection as a progression of building block moves where the *Basic* level moves set the foundation for learning the more challenging *Intermediate* and *Advanced* level patterns. For example, a “Tuck and Turn” introduces the fundamental movements of a “Caught-in-Cage” and a “Sweetheart Wrap”; a “Basic Return (with a Half-Turn),” a “Neck Wrap” and a “Body Wrap” introduce the mechanics of a whip, and a whip is a basic building block for learning many advanced walks, wraps and turns. Professional dancers Matt and Crystal Auclair teach all of the variables of Imperial Swing: *footwork*, *lead*, *movement*, *patterns* and *styling* on the comprehensive, two-hour DVD that is included with my manual. I personally guarantee that *Imperial Swing Dancing* and its free companion *Bonus Supplement* will improve both your proficiency and understanding of our unique, St. Louis style of swing or your money-back!


Henry H. Culver, Jr.