What is line dancing?

Linedance is a choreographed dance form in which dancers, regardless of gender and nationality, dance in rows and lines in front of and next to each other.The dances are choreographed to the music. In the meantime, people are no longer only dancing to country music, but also to pop music.

Story:

The original form of the dance is - as the development of folk dance in many cultures shows - the group dance. Line dancing is conceptually a group dance, although solos are possible. It is therefore often seen as a modern expression of the original group dance. Today's line dance (not to be confused with other historical types of line dance) is the counterpart to all traditional and modern forms of couple dance.

Line dancing developed over the course of the 20th century mainly in the USA, partly from show dancing.

The American TV show American Band Stand (1952 to 1989) had a weekly column in the first year 1952, in which the latest line dances were presented. Linedance's contribution to the dance culture of the time in clubs and dance halls was an addition to the prevailing pair dance. In Europe, due to the post-war order of the Second World War and the widespread opinion that American music was particularly modern, line dancing was also practiced in discos from around the 1960s. One of the most famous line dances still danced today, the "Electric Slide", was choreographed by Ric Silver in 1976 for the opening of the Vamps nightclub on Broadway in New York City.

Linedance received additional public attention, among other things, through a representation in the successful dance film Saturday Night Fever with John Travolta in 1977, which takes up the dance club and disco scene in New York's Brooklyn borough as a framework.

Eventually line dancing was picked up by the US country industry as a supplemental marketing tool. This combined it with their music and thus determined its primary perception in public for many decades. This led, among other things, to the assignment of line dance to the category Country & Western Dance. The music title Achy Breaky Heart in the 1992 interpretation by Billy Ray Cyrus, to which several very well-known and popular line dances are choreographically assigned, is considered a milestone for the final American and worldwide distribution. In the meantime, line dance has developed into an independent, more than just full-length dance in terms of type and scope. The spectrum of music used consists of pop, disco and country pieces, but many other danceable genres have been added, such as rock, classical and the numerous types of regional music, so that in the end there is no longer any real musical limitation. In Germany, line dancing is recognized as a competitive and recreational sport. As part of the German Dance Sport Badge (DTSA) there is a separate test for line dance.

Choreography:

Usually an author has developed a choreography specifically for exactly one interpretation of a piece of music. Additional, alternative music titles are often given for the fixed step sequences. The fixation of choreographies is done by step description (engl. Stepsheet).

Country music is very common, often used by modern performers. Choreographies for current pop songs or rock 'n' roll oldies are also written. The tempo of the chosen music and thus the available choreography covers a wide spectrum. It is usually stated to which level of knowledge and ability of the dancer the respective choreography is aimed (Absolute Beginner, Beginner, Improver, Intermediate, Advanced)

The choreographies have names such as Bread and Butter, Electric Slide or Just a Kiss. While beginners with a repertoire of about 10 to 20 dances can find suitable step sequences for almost any music, advanced students often master a hundred or more dances. The individual dances can be categorized into groups according to their relationship to other dance styles. There are terms such as waltz, cha-cha-cha, rumba, polka and many other classes and names of couple dance. By means of generic terms, an assignment to the respective music styles and rhythms is made:

Rise & Fall: Slow Waltz, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot, Quickstep

Smooth: Tango, Hustle, Two Step, West Coast Swing, Paso Doble, Nightclub

Cuban: Cha Cha Cha, Mambo, Rumba, Merengue, Samba, Salsa, Bachata

Lilt: East Coast Swing, Jive, Polka

Structure of a dance:

Line dancers can only count to 8. A sequence consists of 8 steps. This results in dances with 32, 48, 64 or more steps (counts).

Except for the waltz, where you count to 6, just like in the couple dance. Which then results in dances with 24.36 or more counts.

In linedance there are 1 wall, 2 wall or 4 wall dances. This means that in a 4 wall dance, for example, the dance starts again after 32 counts on the 2nd wall. And so on...

The dances can be danced clockwise or counterclockwise (CW or counter clockwise, CCW).

There are dances that are called phrased and that are represented by a juxtaposition of individual sequences. Several passages are combined in such a way that they are as close as possible to the piece of music. Minor deviations from a standard pattern, on the other hand, are referred to as restart (abortion of the sequence with a restart) or tag/bridge (special transition with a few bars); there are also initial and final sequences, all of which can only be meaningfully combined with a special interpretation of the corresponding piece of music.

Variations are extensions of the basic pattern of an existing choreography. They can come about accidentally, be discovered spontaneously or even be choreographed by yourself. It is important (with the exception of solos) that the direction of the

dance is maintained and that the free space of the dancing neighbors is not unduly restricted.

Dancefloor etiquette

Allocation for ballroom dancers, line dancers and couple dancers

The dance floor etiquette (also: line dance etiquette) regulates the simultaneous execution of different dance styles on the same dance floor to the same music. Mobile couple dancers move counterclockwise on two circular paths around the less mobile line dancers and other couple dancers who dance more on the spot. In addition to placement issues, dance floor etiquette also captures behavior off the dance floor.

- Never enter the dance floor with drinks and food.

- Start a dance at the front of the dance floor so the other dancers can easily catch up behind them. It is better to start a new line behind those who are already dancing, instead of making it too long and thereby blocking others. Fill in gaps.

- Do not push into a line if there is not enough space. Also, do not start a new one between two already existing lines.

- Leave the outer dance floor free for couple dancers, they have priority. Form a new row instead of blocking the outer lane.

- Join a dance you've already started if you've mastered it, or start another dance if space allows.

- Do not start a dance again or in a different direction if it is already being danced.

- If you want to join a dance but are unsure, stand to the side. This makes it easier to leave the dance floor if it doesn't work out.

- The original dances are danced in the front center of the dance floor, alternative dances, if there is enough space, next to or behind. Dance direction is toward the audience.

- Take small steps and avoid crashing into other dancers when the dance floor is full. If you bump into someone, it's customary to apologize, even if it wasn't your fault.

- Never walk through the dance lines when there is dancing. Walk around the outside or wait for the dance to end.

- Never stop on the dance floor to talk or watch when the music starts.

- Never give dance lessons on the dance floor. Find a quiet place to do this.

- Do not tell the other dancers that they are dancing a dance wrong or to the wrong music. Many dances can differ slightly from region to region.

- Keep toddlers busy due to the risk of injury to everyone outside of the dance floor.

- Encourage and support beginners. Be helpful and polite because everyone has a start.

- Applaud the band when a piece of music is over.

- Don't get angry if others don't know Line Dance & Dance Floor Etiquette. Help them by introducing them to it.

And don't forget the smile!! After all, you are there to have fun!

Championships:

The larger line dancing championships in particular are mostly held in the context of country and western dancing championships. The participants in the various disciplines of linedance often represent the majority of the competing dancers. Championships are organized by three large international organizations. The UCWDC (United Country Western Dance Council), founded in the USA in 1989, organizes tournaments in line and couple dance in the USA and Europe.

In 2002, the Masters in Line (MIL) was founded, which organizes tournaments and social dance events mainly in Europe, but now also in Africa, North America and Asia.

The newest organization is called the World Country Dance Federation (WCDF) and organizes championships in Europe. All three host local and national tournaments as well as world championships. In the national tournaments, national champions are sometimes also chosen for the respective tournament series in the individual rating categories. The German Championship is organized by the Federal Association for Country and Western Dance (BfCW) as the responsible professional association with a special task of the DTV.

Source: Wikipedia

