

The Madison

(United States)

The Madison was one of the earliest line dances, originally from the midwest (variously attributed to Chicago, Wisconsin, Cleveland, or Detroit) becoming popular when it hit Baltimore in the late fifties. The dance is prompted by a caller, live at first by the local DJ, then on vinyl by Eddie Morrison to the Ray Bryant tune "Madison Time." Unlike the later disco line dances, it faces forward throughout the dance.

Music:

2/4 meter

Steps:

Basic: Step fwd L; tap R toe behind L ft & clap; step back R; tap L toe to R side; to L side; to R side. Repeat these 6 quick cts until caller says "hit it" after calling out a step. Optional style: twist arms opposite hips on toe taps.

Two Up and Two Back: Step fwd L (ct 1); close R up to L (ct &); step fwd L, tapping R toe behind L (ct 2). Step back R (ct 1); close L in front of R (ct &); step back R, tapping L toe in front of R (ct 2). Timing: QQS QQS.

Immediately followed by ...

Big Strong Turn: Step fwd L, swinging R leg fwd while turning halfway to L (ct 1); step back R, facing back home (ct 2). Repeat fwd L turning L and back R to return to place. 4 slow steps.

Double Cross: After Two Up Two Back, step fwd L; cross R over L; cross L over R; cross R over L, cross L over R. 5 slow counts (one walk fwd plus 4 crossteps).

Immediately followed by...

The Rifleman: Holding the crosstep, raise arms to aim and fire a rifle fwd, step back R, possibly ducking an oncoming bullet. 2 slow counts.

Big Strong M: Trace letter M using Two Up Two Back for each line. Begin L going fwd diag to L, looking sharply twd each direction.

Immediately followed by...

Erase It: Retrace your steps, beg R.

T Time: Two Up as before, do a quick Jumping Jack, one step back R (a very *short* tea break).

Basketball with the Wilt Chamberlin Hook: Two Up while dribbling a basketball with R hand, jump 1/4 to L and take hook shot with R arm, jump 1/4 R to face fwd again, Two Back 4C. You can say "2 points" and hold up 2 fingers during the Two Back.

Jackie Gleason: Two Up while facing R and pumping fists downward with elbows outward on each step; face fwd and raise R leg slightly fwd; cross R ft over L knee (still raised) and hold; step strongly fwd R on ct 7, throwing both arms fwd and raising free L leg behind; step in place 2 quick steps L R.

Two Up Two Back, Double Cross, and Freeze: Just that, holding the final cross.

Presented by Richard Powers