

# The Bus Stop

(United States)

The evolutionary lineage of line dances can be traced back to Vaudeville routines and before, appearing as the Shim Sham in the 1920s and 30s, the Madison around 1959, and much later with the Electric Slide. But line dancing hit the mainstream during the Disco Era, mid-to-late 1970s, and was then swept into the following country-western dance revival of the early 1980s (both crazes being fueled by John Travolta films).

The first line dance of the Disco Era was the Bus Stop, which gained media attention when it was published by the first major magazine article on disco (Rolling Stone magazine) in 1975 and then in a disco book the following year. The Bus Stop also seems to be history's first four-wall line dance.

**Music:** Any disco tune. "Play That Funky Music" by Wild Cherry works well.

**Rhythm:** Thump-thumping 4/4.  
**Tempo:** 110 beats/minute is comfortable.

**Formation:** Individuals evenly spaced on the floor, all facing the same direction.

**Styling:** Highly individualistic. As Karen Lustgarten wrote in 1975, "Think strut: Swing your arms, with a lift of the shoulder and elbow. Lift your feet and pick up your feet in a deliberate way; don't just shuffle."

## Meas

## Pattern

### FIGURE

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 1-2   | Walk bkwd 3 steps beg R then touch L to L side without wt, possibly clapping on ct 4.            |
| 3-4   | Walk fwd 3 steps beg L then touch R to R side without wt, possibly clapping on ct 4.             |
| 5-8   | Repeat meas 1-4.   |
| 9-10  | Step on R to R side, cross L over R, side R, touch L to L side, possibly clapping on ct 4.       |
| 11-12 | Step on L to L side, cross R over L, side L, touch R to R side, possibly clapping on ct 4.       |
| 13-16 | Repeat meas 1-4 rotating 360 degrees CW while traveling R; rotating CCW while traveling L.       |
| 17    | Jump fwd on both ft (ft slightly apart) and hold 1 ct.   |
| 18    | Jump back on both feet and hold 1 ct.  |
| 18    | Jump fwd, jump back.   |
| 20    | Funky Chicken: Click heels together twice, with elbows possibly flapping downward on each click. |
| 21    | Tap R fwd without wt twice   |
| 22    | Tap R back without wt twice  |
| 23    | Tap R fwd without wt; tap R back w/o wt  |
| 24    | Tap R to the R side w/o wt; pivot on the L foot a quarter-turn CCW hitching the R knee up.       |

Facing a different wall, repeat from the top.

Presented by Richard Powers

Reconstruction and dance directions Copyright © 2003 Richard Powers