

The Hierarchy of Creating Partner Connection

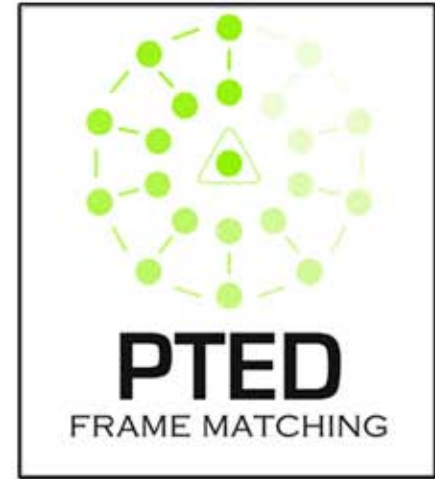
by Joe DeMers



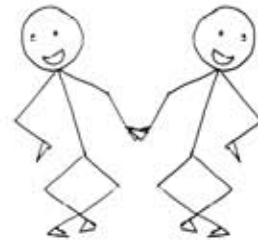
Level 4: Leader-initiated Lead -Follow Framework (Traditional)

Dancers have physical contact and the leader drives the follower's movement. Musical decisions are driven by leader. This level is often referred to as move-based dancing with tension-push/pull techniques applying, such as utilizing homolateral movement. Matching still occurs, but is typically only used to fortify partner communication and balance. In this level, tone is often used as a tool by the leader to lead moves.

Move-based Dancing
Tension-Push/Pull



www.joeandnelle.com



Level 3: Follower-initiated Lead -Follow Framework (Matching)

Dancers have physical contact and both dance as individuals (i.e. moves own feet). Frame Matching and $\Delta pTed$ are the driving communication concepts of this level. Movement is led and followed with tension-release techniques, such as utilizing contralateral movement. There is an "initiator" and a "responder." Within self-space, either dancer may act as an "initiator" of changes in movement and tension, while the "responder" is the other matching. Musical decisions are typically collaborated and tone is a texture of movement. Bringing the connection dynamic closer to Level 4, but still using tension-release techniques, leaders may create directional changes across the floor for followers to match and transverse (i.e. tension-release moves).

Tension-Release

Movement-based Dancing
Physical Contact
Solo



Level 2: Solo Movement with Partner contact (No Matching)

Dancers have physical contact, but dance as individuals. There is no leading or matching movement, which is often achieved by tension-disengagement. Dancers create, change, and maintain own posture, tone, energy, and direction of energy. Musicality decisions are completely determined by individual. The "leader's" responsibility is to choose the position in which physical contact occurs.



Level 1: Solo Movement

Solo movement is the foundation of creating partner connection. Individual dancers express movement by creating, changing, and maintaining posture, tone, energy, and direction of energy. Musicality decisions are completely determined by individual. Typically, as one's vocabulary and quality of solo movement improves, so does one's ability to create better connection and dynamic partner interactions and communication.