Dive Thru

Timing

Couple diving under: 2, couple making the arch: 6

Starting formation

Facing Couples (at least one of which is normal)

Dance action

One couple makes an arch by raising their joined hands, while the other couple ducks under the arch. Both move forward. The couple making the arch does a California Twirl.
Unless otherwise specified, it is the couple whose back is to the center of square who makes the arch, and the outside couple who ducks under. If neither couple has its back to the center of the set, then the caller must specify who is to make the arch, or who is to Dive Thru the arch, or preferably both.

Ending formation

Tandem Couples

Styling

The couple making the arch uses a loose handhold. Stand far enough apart to allow another couple to dive under. It is permissible for dancers making the arch to part hands momentarily if it is uncomfortable to reach over diving dancers. The couple making the arch should keep the arch, and blend smoothly into the California Twirl, rather than dropping their hands and then raising them again.
Couple diving under uses couple handhold. Bend low enough and stay close enough to partner to move comfortably underneath the arch.

Comments

While the smallest starting formation is listed, Dive Thru is almost always called from an Eight Chain Thru formation, ending in a Double Pass Thru formation.
From a couple facing a single dancer, one could call, for example, “Centers Arch, Head Lady Dive Thru”.
The couple making the arch must be a normal couple to be able to do the California Twirl.

Birgit Rudolf Stand: 2026 11 06