

# INTRODUCTION TO BUCK STEPS

## BASIC STYLE:

In buck dancing, the knees stay flexed continuously. Although the heels are used, they will often remain off the floor; more dancing is done on just the balls of the feet. The ankle of the foot is used to flex or point the foot. By slight movements of the foot, different parts of the foot can touch the floor. In clogging, most of the movement is made by the legs, and the feet follow. In buck dancing, more of the action is by the feet themselves.

## COUNTING:

In clogging, usually two sounds are made for each beat of music (i.e. Rock-Step). In buck dancing, three or four sounds are often made in the same amount of time (i.e. either Rk-HeelBall or HeelBall-HeelBall).

The musical beats are counted:                   1   2   3   4

In clogging, we add the upbeats:               &   1   &   2   &   3   &   4

In buck dancing, we add more sounds in between and count them like this:

                  e   &   a   1   e   &   a   2   e   &   a   3   e   &   a   4

## BASIC TERMS [abbreviation]:

Ball [B or Ba]	Place weight on the ball of the foot; like a "Toe" or "Rock" in clogging.
Bounce [Bo]	With the weight already on the ball of the foot (one or both), do a slight hop & land on that same foot, making a sound. Often, the other foot is doing something else at the same time.
Brush [Br]	Similar to clogging; indicates the toe glances the floor, but can be in any direction.
Double [Dbl or D]	Similar to Double-Toe, but the timing can be slightly different.
Heel (w) [H]	Indicates that weight is placed on the heel.
Heeltouch [H]	Same as in clogging: touch the heel to the floor to make a sound, but don't put any weight on it. Often cued as just "Heel" for brevity. (Be careful to know whether a "Heel" takes weight or not.)
Hop [Hp]	Same as in clogging, but doesn't have the pause before it. It must be a quick hop on the floor to make a sound; weight remains on the same foot. Often used in place of a Slide.
Skuff [Sk]	Similar to clogging: a brush with the heel of the foot, but not necessarily followed by a Slide.
Snap (Toe) [Sn]	Indicates that a sound is made with the toe of the foot, when the weight is already on that foot or heel.
Step	Change of weight, but can be flatfooted (as in clogging) or onto just the ball of the foot (same as "Ball").
Toe [To]	Different from clogging "Toe" in that the tip of the toe is touched to the floor to make a sound, but NO weight is transferred. Same as a "Touch" or "Tap" in clogging.
Triple DT	3 sounds are made in the space of a half-beat, by using the toe of the opposite foot also. The free foot starts the DT, but the weight-bearing foot does a toe snap in between the two sounds made by the free foot. Can be used to replace any DT.

*Many clogging steps can be changed to buck steps just by replacing clogging parts with equivalent buck parts. Some steps that are easily changed: Basic, 4 Cnt Rock (and variations), Joey, Run, etc.*

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## COMMON STEPS OR PARTS OF STEPS:

**NOTE:** Movements done with the left foot are written above the line; movements done with the right foot are written below the line. The count is written below both.

Jog	<u>Ba Ba</u> Ba Ba e & a 1	
Heel Ball	<u>Htch Ba</u> Htch Ba e & a 1	Written as: HB HB
Rock Heel Ball	<u>Rk(bk)</u> Htch Ba & a 1	(Rock = Ball, but can be cued Rock) Written: Rk HB
Toe Ball	<u>To(bk) Ba</u> To(bk) Ba e & a 1	"To" takes no weight, like a touch Written: TB TB
Rock Toe Ball	<u>Rk(f)</u> To(bk) Ba & a 1	(Rock = Ball, but can be cued Rock) Written: Rk TB
Heel Ball Toe Ball	<u>Htch Ba</u> To(bk) Ba e & a 1	To = touch tip of toe in back Written: HB TB
Double Ball	<u>Dbl Ba</u> &a 1	Equivalent to clogging Run (Dt-Step) Written: DB
Basic Buck	<u>DS Htch St</u> Rk &1 & a 2	OR <u>Dbl Ba Htch Ba*</u> Htch Ba & 1 e & a 2 *Note: Often on the last beat a real, flatfooted "Step" is used. The second version is usually written: DB-HB HB
Gallop 1	<u>DB Htch Ba Htch Ba Htch Ba</u> Rk(bk) Rk(bk) Rk(bk) &1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4	moving L, usually Written: DB-Rk HB-Rk HB-Rk HB
Gallop 2	<u>DB To Ba To Ba To Ba</u> Rk(f) Rk(f) Rk(f) &1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4	moving R, usually Written: DB-Rk TB-Rk TB-Rk TB
Pitter Patter	<u>DB HB HB HB</u> HB HB HB &1 e& a2 e& a3 e& a4	
Fast Balls	<u>St Ba</u> Dbl Ba St & 1e & a 2	Uses the reverse of DB, called Step Dbl
Skuff It Up	<u>St Hop</u> Sk up & a 1	
Pony	<u>Ip St Hop</u> To Ba Sk up & a 1 & a 2	Jump is onto the opposite foot
Skuff Brush Step	<u>Sk up Br(bk)</u> Hop St e & a 1	Almost a Burton Run
Sonic	<u>St Tch</u> Dbl St & 1e & 2	