

TwoStep Part 4

Scissors: All Scissors figures are single measure figures comprising three steps: Side, Close, Cross,-; They always change position relative to your partner and facing direction. The variations are created by defining which dancer crosses in front or behind.

Fig 12a Scissors Thru' : The simplest figure is Scissors Thru' in which both dancers step Side, Close, Cross in Front turning to **Open** (starting with **Trail feet**) or **Left Open position** (starting with **Lead feet**) as appropriate.

Butterfly position with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

Man: Side Left, Together R, Cross L in front to Left Open position facing RLOD, Touch ;

Lady: Side Right, Together L, Cross R in front to Left Open position facing RLOD, Touch ;

Butterfly position with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Trail feet** free

Man: Side Right, Together L, Cross R in front to Open position facing LOD, Touch ;

Lady: Side Left, Together R, Cross L in front to Open position facing LOD, Touch ;

Practice 12.1: **Butterfly position** with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

Side TwoStep Left & Right ;; Scissors Thru' face RLOD ; Walk 2 to Butterfly ;

Scissors Thru' face LOD ; Walk 2 to Butterfly ; Box ;;

If you wish to dance Scissors Thru' twice, you will need to blend to a facing position after the first Scissors Thru' in order to make the Side step to start the second Scissors Thru'.

Practice 12.2: **Butterfly position** with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

*Side TwoStep Left & Right ;; Scissors Thru' face RLOD ; Scissors Thru' face LOD ;
Walk 4 to Butterfly ;; Box ;;*

Fig 12b Scissors to Sidecar or Banjo position: If we now change the figure slightly for the Lady so that she crosses Behind instead of in Front (the Man's steps stay the same) the figure will finish in **Sidecar position** (Left hips adjacent) if starting with **Lead feet** or **Banjo position** (Right hips adjacent) with **Trail feet**. We usually start the figure in **Closed position** so the Man can lead the Lady to Cross Behind. This figure introduces new body positions where the Lady stands slightly to the Man's Left or Right Side with both feet outside the Man's feet. The positions should not be exaggerated: there should still be a good amount of body overlap.

Scissors to Sidecar: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

Man: Side Left, Together R, Cross L in front to **Sidecar position**, Touch ;

Lady: Side Right, Together L, Cross R behind Left to **Sidecar position**, Touch ;

Scissors to Banjo: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Trail feet** free

Man: Side Right, Together L, Cross R in front to **Banjo position**, Touch ;

Lady: Side Left, Together R, Cross L behind Right to **Banjo position**, Touch ;

Practice 12.3: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

Box ;; Scissors to Sidecar ; Scissors to Banjo ;;

Walk 4 to face ;; Side TwoStep Left & Right ;;

Fig 12c Progressive Scissors to Sidecar or Banjo position: More commonly we would use the previous figure starting in **Closed position** facing **Line of Dance**. The crossing steps cause us to progress down Line of Dance but our facing directions are now diagonals.

Progressive Scissors to Sidecar: **Closed position** Man facing **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free

Man: Side Left, Together R, Cross L in front to **Sidecar position** facing DLW, Touch ;

Lady: Side Right, Together L, Cross R behind Left to **Sidecar position** facing DRC, Touch ;

Progressive Scissors to Banjo: **Closed position** Man facing **LOD**, with **Trail feet** free

Man: Side Right, Together L, Cross R in front to **Banjo position** facing DLC, Touch ;

Lady: Side Left, Together R, Cross L behind Right to **Banjo position** facing DRW, Touch ;

Before we practice this figure, we will practice moving towards Line of Dance in Closed position, so the Lady is moving backwards.

Practice 12.4: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Walk 4 ;; repeat

Practice 12.5: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Prog Scissors to Sidecar & Banjo ;;

Walk 4 to face wall ;; Box ;;

Now you know a number of figures which leave you in different finish positions and directions, we need to look at ways of returning you to the start position to repeat a sequence. We have already met Walk 4 and Blend to a facing position: now we will change this a little so you finish in Closed position facing Line of Dance

From **Open position** facing **Line of Dance** with **Lead feet** free, the Man will Walk forward 4 steps, making the last step a little smaller. This will allow the Lady to take her fourth step and then swivel in front of the Man to Closed position. This is also known as PickUp position.

*Practice 12.6: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free*

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Prog Scissors to Sidecar & Banjo ;;

Walk 4 to face wall ;; Box ;;

Reverse Box ;; Side TwoStep Left & Right ;;

Side, Close Twice ; Side & Thru' to Open ; Walk 4 to PickUp ;;

In practice we more often use Walk and PickUp (**S,-,S,-;**) to change position. It is important to remember this uses 2 walking steps before the change of position. Some dancers try to PickUp on the lead feet then Close but this stops the forward movement and can feel very uncomfortable.

*Practice 12.7: **Closed position** with the Man facing the **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free*

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Prog Scissors to Sidecar & Banjo ;;

Walk 4 to face wall ;; Box ;;

Reverse Box ;; Side, Close Twice ; Side & Thru' to Open ;

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Walk & PickUp ; Side Draw Close ;

Fig 13 2 Turning TwoSteps: This figure turns one full turn Right-faced in six steps over two measures of music. [An equivalent Left turning figure exists but is seldom used and would be cued as Left Turning TwoStep]. It starts in Closed Position and ends facing partner and the wall unless otherwise specified. A little more technique is used in this figure as the third step of each measure uses a pivoting action when stepping forward on the Right foot. As this is a right turning figure, the turn is early ie you start the turn before you take the step. With practice this becomes a smoothly turning figure with no separation between the measures.

Closed position with the Man facing the **Wall**, with **Lead feet** free

MAN: Turning slightly Right-Faced Side Left, Close Right continue right-face turn, Side & Back Left completing 1/2 right-face turn, -;

Turning slightly Right-Faced Side Right, Close Left continue right-face turn, Forward Right with Pivot action to complete 1/2 right face turn, -;

WOMAN: Turning slightly Right-Faced Side Right, Close Left continue right-face turn, Forward Right with Pivot action to complete 1/2 right face turn, -;

Turning slightly Right-Faced Side Left, Close Right continue right-face turn, Side & Back Left completing 1/2 right-face turn, -;

Note: Although this figure turns, it also travels along line of progression.

Practice 13.1: In **Semi-Closed position** facing the **LOD**, with **Lead feet** free

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Walk 4 to face ;;

2 Turning TwoSteps ;; Box ;;

Reverse Box ;; Side Close Twice ; Side & Thru' to Semi-Closed position ;

Practice 13.2: In **Closed position** with the Man facing the **Wall** with **Lead feet** free

Travelling Box ;; ;; {SCP}

2 Forward TwoSteps to face ;; 2 Turning TwoSteps ;;

Side TwoStep Left & Right blend to Butterfly ;; Scissors Thru' Twice to Open ;;

2 Forward TwoSteps ;; Walk 4 to Closed position ;;

Some choreographers will underturn 2 Turning TwoSteps to finish in Closed position facing Line of Dance, so the figure only turns $\frac{3}{4}$ instead of a full turn. The modified turn occurs in the second measure of the figure.