

Teaching Quadrille to D's and C's

By Jody Hoffman

Why Teach Quadrille

1. **Fun**
2. **Educational-teaches basic dressage movements, rider/horse communication**
3. **Teamwork**

Definition:

The term quadrille came to exist in the 17th Century, within military parades, where 4 horsemen and their horses performed special square shaped formations or *figures*. The word quadrille is probably derived from the Spanish word "cuadrillo" (diminutive Spanish, meaning four) and from the Latin "quadratus" (meaning square).

Quadrille is most simply defined as team riding. The most famous, readily identifiable quadrilles are those of the Spanish Riding School.

Although quadrille as an equestrian pageant has been performed since the Baroque period, only in the last decade has it become a competitive sport in this country. Competitive teams of four riders perform both compulsory and musical freestyle routines. It is an activity suitable to persons of all ages, including youth groups such as 4-H and Pony Club. In competition there are teams of 4 but teams of 6, 8, 12 or even more can be in exhibition rides. Obviously the greater the number of riders-the larger the arena must be.

For the purpose of this lesson we will use a small dressage arena and 4 riders and 4 horses.

Requirements:

RECOMMEND—USE USDF BASIC LEVEL QUADRILLE TEST UPDATE 1/07

1. Standard regulation Dressage Arena (20 meters by 60 meters). Standard Dressage letters must be available to mark the correct points for geometry. The centerline points can be "drawn" in dirt or painted with the sports field spray.
2. Smaller Arena for walking---Must be wide enough for 4 to walk comfortably abreast and 3 times longer than it is wide. Standard Dressage letters must be available to mark the correct points for geometry. See diagram.
3. 2 sets of standard dressage letters. These can be cones, flower pots etc.
4. 4 riders. Riders need to be numbered 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b. Use pinneys or tape numbers to shirts. Some instructors add stick horses or wheelbarrows as the horses.
5. 4 horses—Presentations usually have horses of like colors and sizes-but really the charm and instruction-learning trick is to perform well with horses of various sizes and colors—typical pony club mounts! Yes they can work in unison.

6. 2-4 parents to hold the horses.
7. A cassette player (Boom box) with classical music or other selection that has a trot tempo—**Mendelsohn's Wedding March** works very well and is familiar to most pony club members.
8. Flip chart of movements. Quadrille can be taught without this, but really it is a useful tool. Note that there are 13 scored movements in 2007 Basic Level—There is a Prelude step—The entry pattern.
9. Test copies for everyone.
10. Time involved. It usually takes about an hour to introduce and successfully ride a quadrille.
11. One instructor.

Vocabulary:

1. Alignment and Spacing.

Both occur in two directions---In a column (single file) or laterally. Spacing refers to distance between riders when riding single file or in columns. Spacing may change from movement to movement depending upon the gait and the pattern.

- a. **Column.** Whether single file or in pairs. Refers mainly to centerline work. The judge can see only the first rider if a single file (column) or the lead riders (2 columns or pairs).
- b. **Lateral.** Mainly seen when riders turn individually from the long side and go across the arena. The judge should be able to see only the nearest rider when the alignment is good. The riders' bodies are aligned, not the horses' heads.

2. Fan Formation

When coming down the centerline in pairs for a salute, the second pair splits, and the riders fan out to come up alongside the center pair.

3. Oblique

An angular line of travel from the centerline to the side or from the side to the centerline or opposite side of the arena, as opposed to straight across.

4. Pass Through

Pairs approaching each other, making sufficient room to allow one horse to pass between the approaching 2 horses.

5. Synchrony

Refers to all riders turning at the same time.

6. Thread the Needle

A movement in which riders coming single file from the corners of the arena, cross each other's paths alternately on the centerline.

I. Introduce Quadrille to the students (unmounted) Ask the parents to hold the horses. Explain the concept and teaching method. (steps as in II)

II. Execution

- a. Review the patterns on the flip chart.
- b. Assign the numbers 1 a ,1 b, 2 a and 2 b
- c. Walk the pattern in the small arena as a group until it starts to make sense. The instructor will read all the commands.
- d. The four will mount up and line up 2 on a long side facing A. At the instructors command both sides walk forward and perform the movements of the test at a walk. Usually just need 2-3 walk throughs. The instructor reads the commands
- e. Perform the test as written at the walk and trot. The instructor reads the commands.

III. Discuss, Critique then add music and go! Have fun!!

IV. Discussion Points

- a. Watching others using peripheral vision
- b. Regulating Gait—increase the speed of slower horses and slow down faster horses.
- c. Introduce synchronized halts and salutes
- d. Explain that horses usually like quadrille and actually seem to enjoy being ridden to music. They get it!

Entry Pattern:	A L A	Enter single file at walk or trot Divide, On half circle to track, 1's right, 2's left. Between P & F, V & K files trot as one Turn down centerline in pairs
1.	D X	Proceed in pairs at working trot. Halt fan formation, salute. Proceed working trot single file.
2.	C V L	Track left ½ 10 m circle to centerline. ½ 10 m circle right to track
3.	A	Circle right 20 m
4.	Between V & E C	Individual right obliques to centerline when lead rider reaches E. Track Right
5.	Centered on B	Individual right turns across arena. Track left towards A.
6.	A	Circle left 20 m.
7.	Between P & B C	Individual left obliques to centerline when lead rider reaches B. Divide, 1's right, 2's left.
8.	M & H R & S L	Files walk as one Short oblique to X form pairs. Individual right and left obliques to track.
9.	F & K A Centered on X	Files trot as one Turn down centerline in single file, 1, 2, 3, 4. Individual right and left obliques to track 1's right 2's left.

10.	C B & E	Cross over. Files ½ circle to centerline, forming single file, 2's in front of 1's.
11.	Between L & G	Individual ½ circles to rail, 1's right 2's left.
12.	E to F And B to K	Thread the needle 3, 4, 1, 2
13.	A X	Down centerline in pairs. Halt fan formation, salute.

COLLECTIVE marks for all Quadrille Tests

Spacing (longitudinal and lateral)

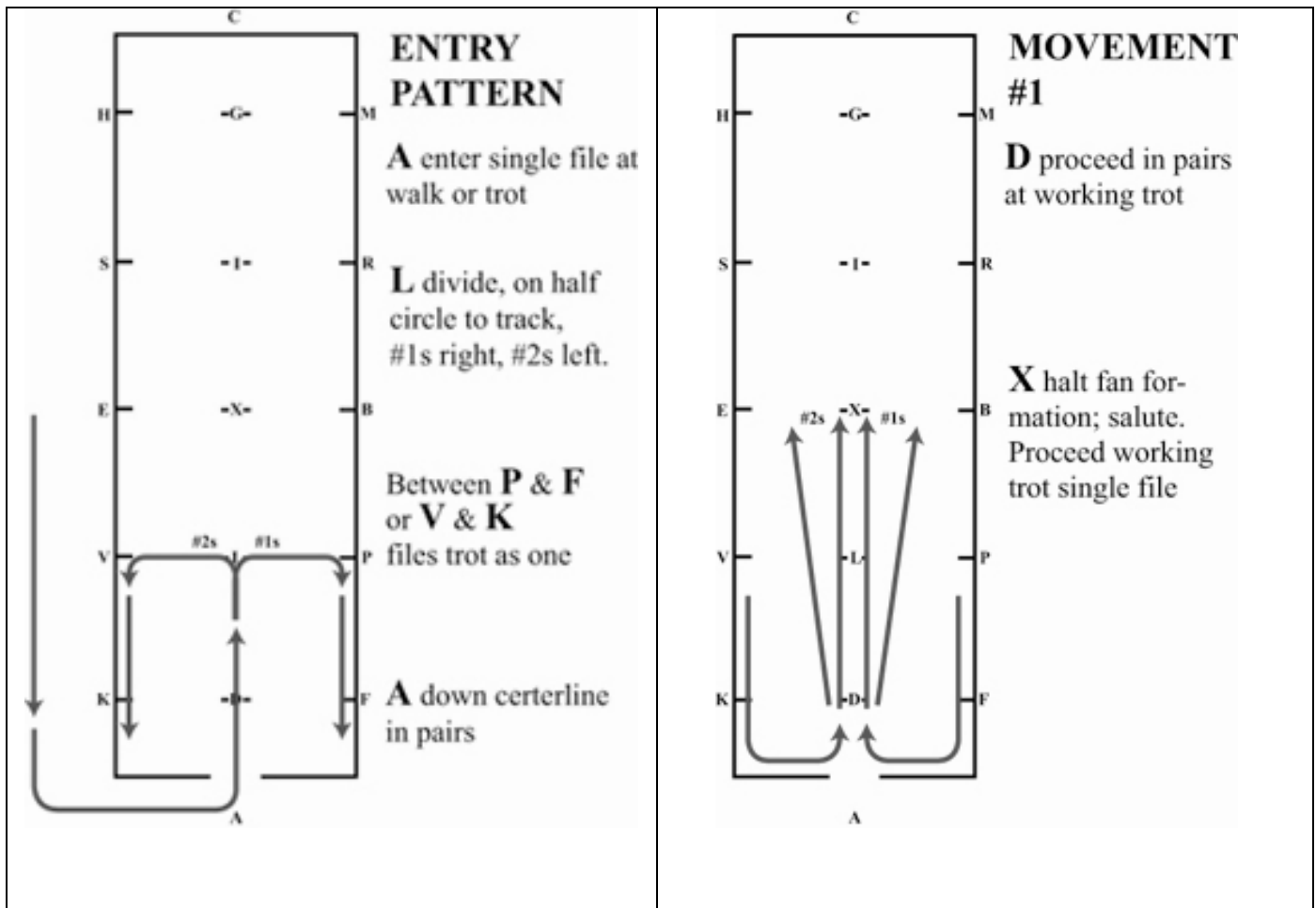
Synchrony (timing of turns, circles, transitions, crossovers, pass-throughs).

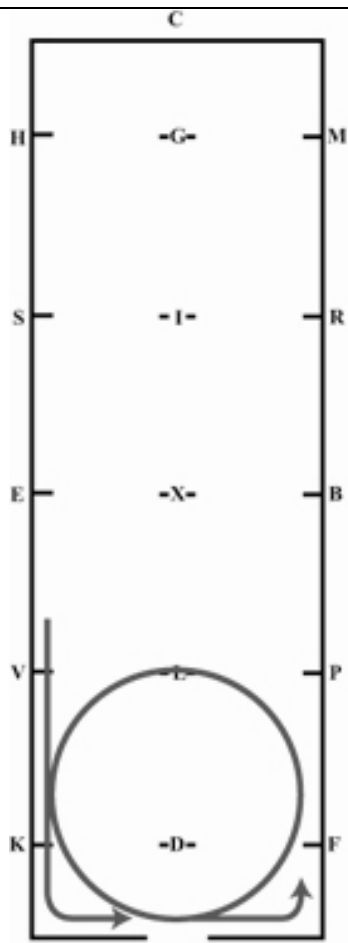
Alignment (rider's bodies as seen from side and front).

Impulsion

Submission (Obedience to aids in order to perform patterns accurately).

Performance as a Group (uniform and harmonious).



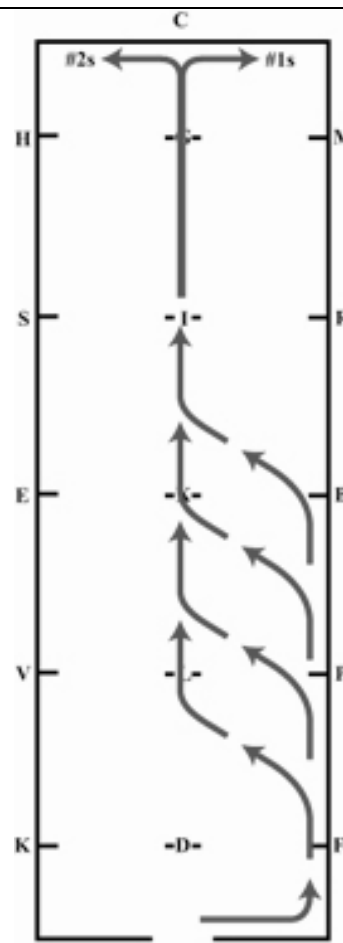


MOVEMENT

#6

A circle left
20 meters

A



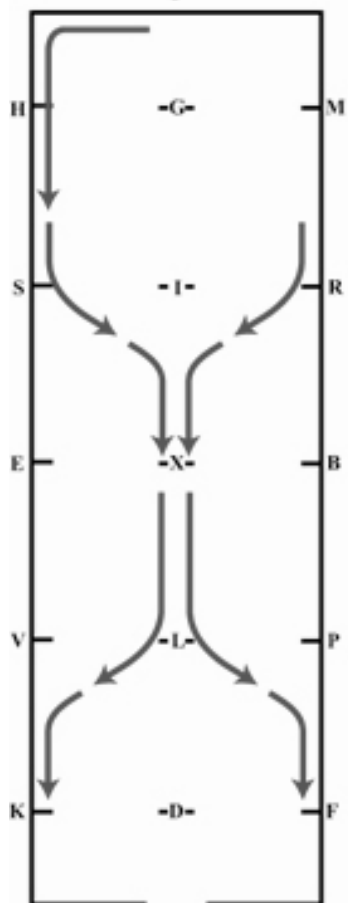
MOVEMENT

#7

Between **P** & **B**
individual right
obliques to center-
line when lead
rider reaches **B**

C divide ride,
#1s right, #2s
left

A



MOVEMENT

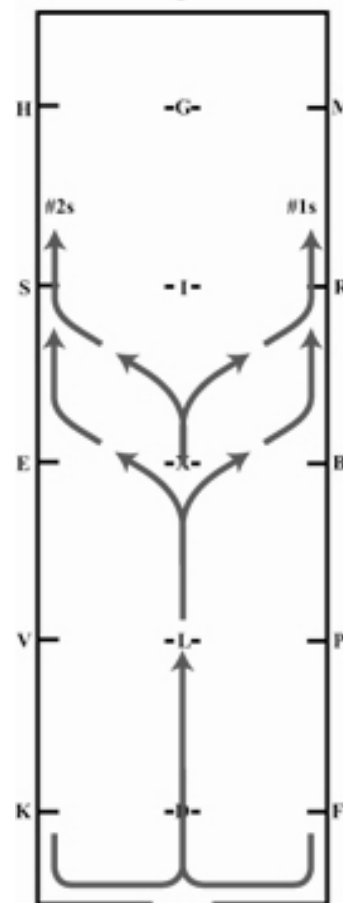
#8

M & **H** files
walk as one

R & **S** short
oblique to **X**,
forming pairs

L individual
right and left
obliques to
track

A



MOVEMENT

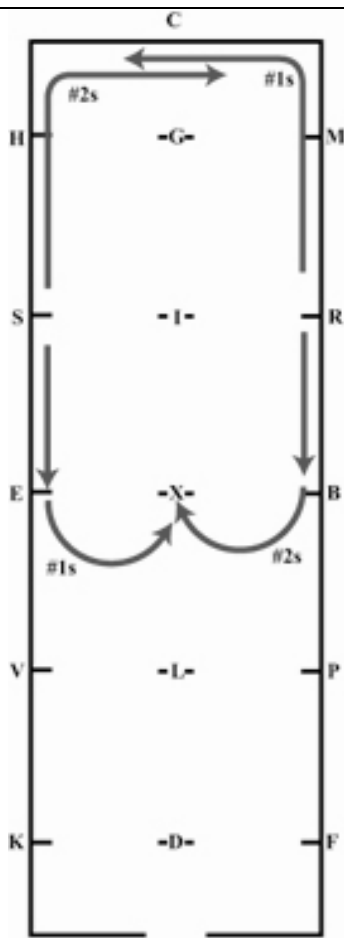
#9

F & **K** files trot
as one

A down center-
line in single
file 1, 2, 3, 4

Centered on **X**,
individual right
and left obliques
to track; #1s right,
#2s left

A

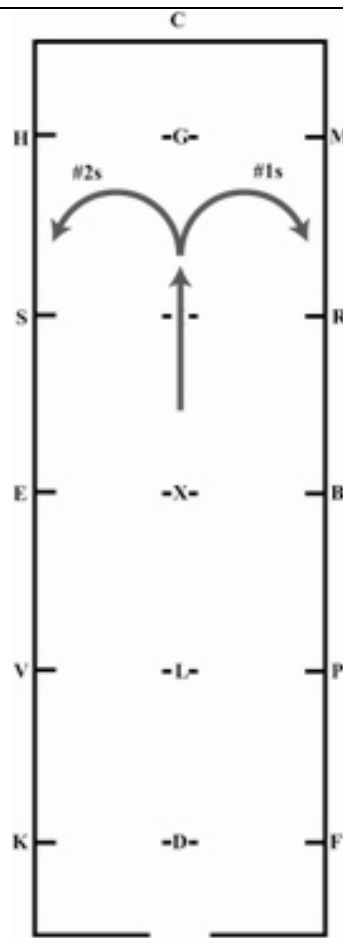


MOVEMENT #10

C cross over

B & E files 1/2 circles to center-line, forming single file, #2s in front of #1s

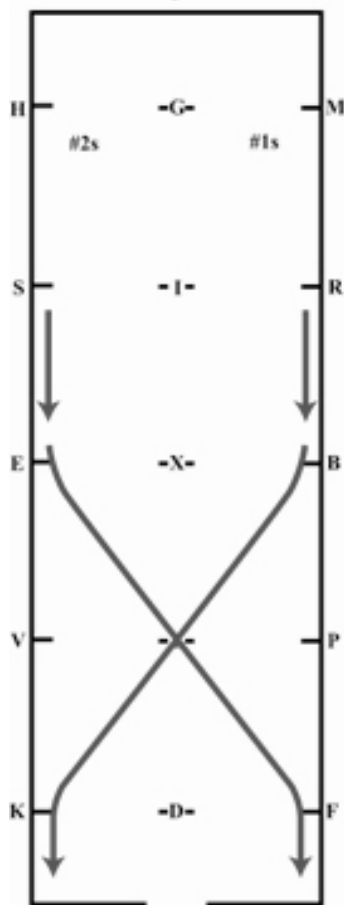
A
C



MOVEMENT #11

Between **I & G** individual 1/2 circles to track, #1s right, #2s left

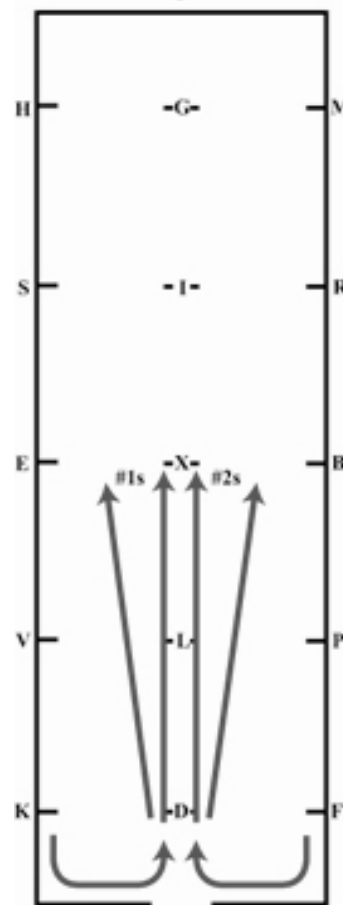
A
C



MOVEMENT #12

E to F, B to K, thread the needle (3, 4, 1, 2)

A



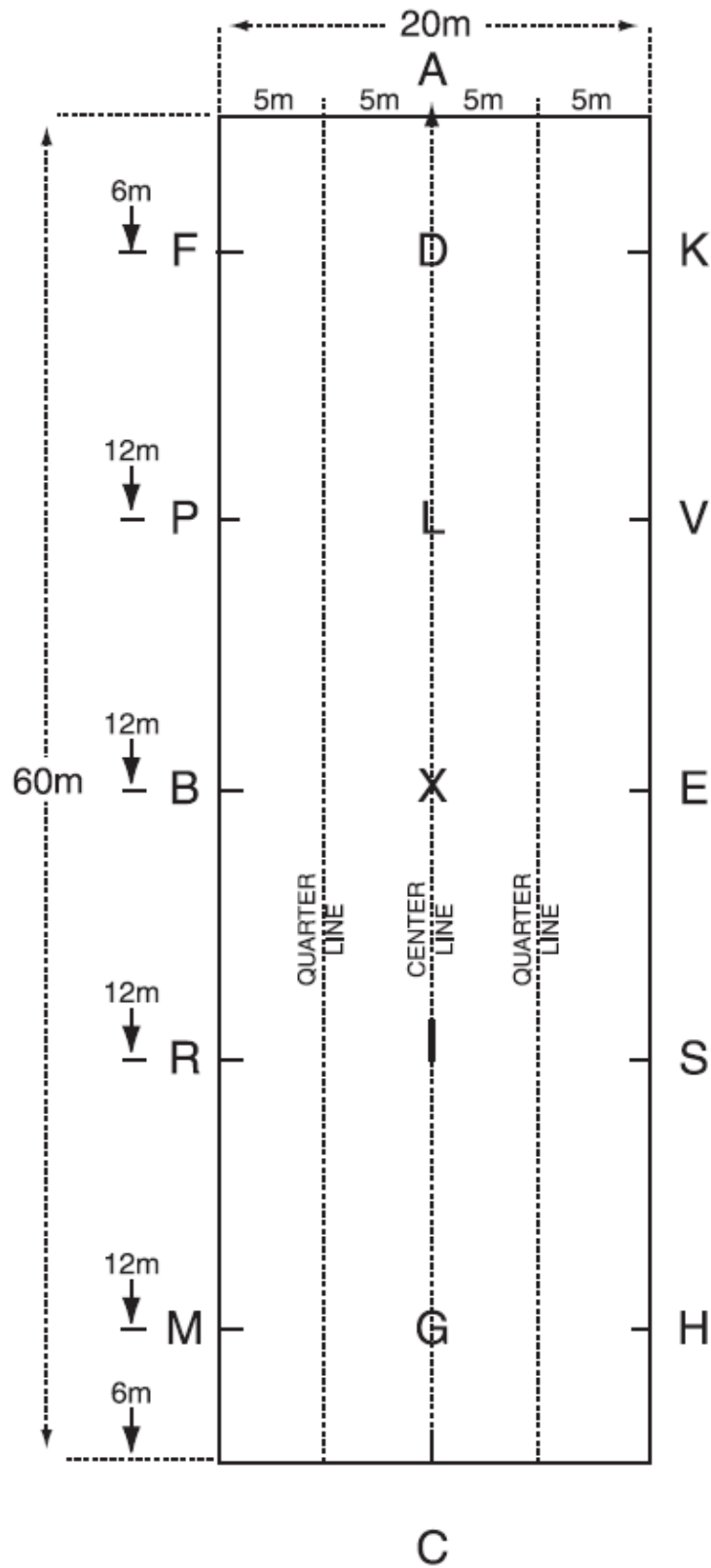
MOVEMENT #13

A down center-line in pairs

X halt fan formation; salute.

A

Standard Dressage Arena



Footnote: Some of my notes and the test were downloaded from the USDF website.