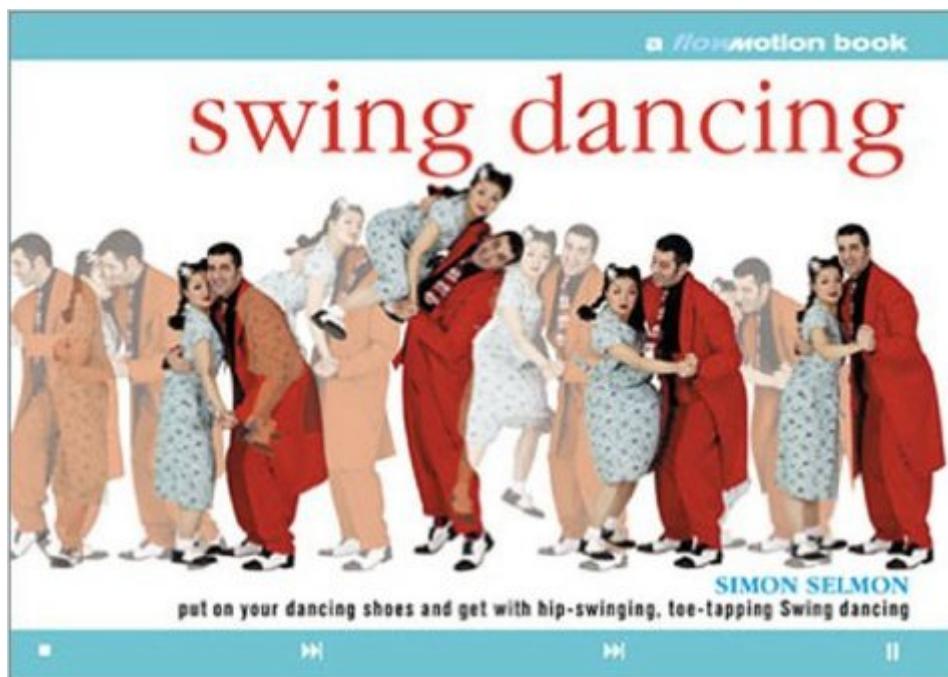


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# Swing Dancing: Put On Your Dancing Shoes And Get With Hip-Swinging, Toe-Tapping Swing Dancing



## Synopsis

How do you want to get in the swing of things? Perhaps with the East Coast version, with its cool turns? How about the syncopated Hollywood style, filled with footwork? Or maybe you want the jumping and jiving, kick-it-lively, acrobatic lindy hop. Whichever you choose, these dances are loads of fun, not to mention great exercise. And, when you're guided by these show-it-all sequences, that teach you the movement in full, you won't have to worry about having two left feet when you step onto the floor! So--all you have to do is swing, swing, swing!

## Book Information

Series: A Flowmotion Book

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Sterling; English Language edition (August 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0806993804

ISBN-13: 978-0806993805

Product Dimensions: 6 x 8.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,432,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #66 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Ballroom #342 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Modern #347 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Dance

## Customer Reviews

This book gives more usable detail on steps for Savoy- and Hollywood-style lindy hop, as well as for East Coast (6-count) swing, than any other I've seen, and it's a nice reference for intermediate-level dancers. It covers a good range of the steps frequently encountered in social dancing (examples: tuck turn, back Charleston, sugar push, catapult, Texas Tommy), plus a couple of basic air steps \*not\* suitable for a crowded floor. You'll never learn to dance from this or any book, but you might use it as a supplement to instruction or experience. The layout is unique. (, how about putting up a couple of sample pages?) Each step gets a two-page spread of photos like those on the cover, with the kind of "stro-motion" series of photographs of its progress that TV sportscasts sometimes use to detail figure-skating moves or football plays. There are text explanations below each part of the step, and a running count of the musical beat at the bottom of the page. Some complicated but

crucial steps -- notably whips and swing-outs -- get three two-page spreads, with leaders (= men, usually), followers (= women), and both-together each shown separately. So what's not to like? Several things, all of which spring from the lack of space on the two-page layouts: \* The overlapping photos are presented so densely in places that it's hard to see crucial details, and the text often isn't quite below the appropriate photo. If you've never seen the step before, you'll have a hard time understanding what's going on. \* The follower's footwork gets short shrift in too many of the descriptions -- particularly annoying on moves in which she's turning. (In this regard the book is no better and no worse than many dance instructors.

Dance is, arguably, complicated to teach in text. I wanted to like this book, give it a break; it has a campy feel and the dancers are wearing cute vintage clothes. It gives names to moves you might have learned outside of a structured classroom environment or forgotten the name of. Sadly, "Swing Dancing- Put Your Dancing Shoes on and Get With Hip-swinging, Toe-tapping Swing" is confusing to any level of dancer because of lackluster information and appalling information design. This book, however eye catching, makes even the simplest swing dance moves utterly confusing. The "flow motion" selling point, while at times adds a touch of clarity, for instance, about which direction to turn, often does not and usually serves as a barrier to understanding even the simplest moves. Turning, in almost every case, could be better represented with a simple, curved, directional arrow. More confusion caused by "flow motion" is the miscommunication of traveling motion. In swing dance, we do move back and forth and spin but the faded in between pictures don't help readers understand when they are moving in place and when they are stepping. Instead, it makes it look as if swing dance is some kind of traveling line dance that moves dancers to the opposite side of the floor in a single move. This is seldom the case. Also is it seldom that dancers float in thin air. It looks better visually but learners could benefit from knowing how high to step and better see the difference of a step, a heel raise, and a toe touch. For that a bit of reference to flooring is necessary.

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