

# INTRODUCTION TO BUCK

Buck Dance was introduced to the clogging community in the early 80s by Burton Edwards. In buck dancing, the knees stay flexed continuously. Most dancing is done on the balls of the feet. The ankle of the foot is used to flex or point the foot. Buck is a 'style' we add to our steps to create new rhythms.

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 by using quarter beats and count them like this: e&a1 e&a2 e&a3 e&a4

The very basic buck methodology is to replace our Rock Step that is 1 count of music with 2 additional sounds that occur on the quarter note of 1 count. Let's look at how this breaks down.

In a clogging Basic we have:  
double step rock step  
&a 1 &. 2

In a Buck Basic we have:  
double step heel ball heel step  
&a 1 e & a 2

In a Burton Basic we have:  
Skuff drag flap step heel ball heel step  
e & a 1 e & a 2

Now there are a few ways to incorporate Buck into your dancing, and there are no 'rules'. The basic ways are to replace the rock step in any step. This rock step can be replaced with heels or toe edges and where you position your foot will help you determine which to use. Rock steps that are moving in front you would use heels, rock steps that are moving behind would use toes. But that ain't gospel! Be creative!

Now we'll look at some other basic steps and how you and incorporate the buck style. Here are some abbreviations I'll be using:

B	Ball	weight is on the ball of the foot, can be interchangeable with Step
DR	Drag	weight is on the foot, sliding slightly back by straightening the knee
DS	Double step	double step as done in clogging
FL	Flap	Slap the ball of the foot, no weight taken
H	Heel	heel edge strikes the floor, no weight is taken
R	Rock	weigh on ball of the foot, can be interchangeable with Ball
T	Toe	toe tap edge strikes the floor, no weight is taken
S	Step	full step takes weight, can be interchangeable with Ball
SK	Skuff	Skuff the heel tap forward

## Basic Buck

DS H B H B  
&1 e & a 2  
L R R L L

## Basic Toe Buck

DS T B H B  
&1 e & a 2  
L R R L L

## Buck Chain Rock

DS R H S R H S R H S  
&1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4  
L R L L R L L R L L

## Pitter Patter

DS H B H B H B H B H B H S  
&1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4  
L R R L L R R L L R R L L

## Gallop

DS R T(ib) B(ib) R(os) T(ib) B(ib) R(os) T(ib) S  
&1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4  
L R L L R L L R L L

## Fancy Double #1

DS DS R H B R H S  
&1 &2 & 3 e & a 4  
L R L R R L R R

## Fancy Double #2

DS DS T B H B T B H S  
&1 &2 e & a 3 e & a 4  
L R L L R R L L R R

## Buck Joey

DS T(ib) B(ib) H(os) B(os) H B T(ib) B H(os) B(os) H S  
&1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4  
L R R L L R R L L R R L L

## Burton Basic

SK DR FL S H B H S  
e & a 1 e & a 2  
L R L L R R L L