



*Dan Schweitzer*

I recently promoted a dangle harness targeted to long-time dancers with a ton of dangles.

To be fair, I had to come up with something for the growing market of newbies.

They're wonderful people, but darn, some of them could get lost in the Chicago Cubs' World Series museum. Hear: Circle Right and they head left? Confuse Swing Thru with Swing Your Partner?

Well, no more. Technology has come to the rescue. Dancing to "take-no-prisoners hot hash"? Got Ron Abbot? No problem, now newbies can be ready.

The DanDan SquareD™ includes:

- Command digitizer connected to the caller's mike
- Direction finder, locked onto the stage
- GPS receiver, (from Denver caller Don Furnish)
- Eye glasses with heads-up LED display
- Voice commands transmitted to an ear-bud headphone
- Gender ID selection switch (an automatic sensor was nixed)
- Video camera (to record badge names and your corner)

- Repair-the-square button (in case you join a low-tech square)

Soon, lessons will be a thing of the past. Plug this baby in, set the switch to male, and you're ready for anything.

Say the caller commands Sides Face Grand Square. There is no moment of indecisive panic, "I'm a ..., a ..., a head? Your direction finder knows.

Small LEDs in your glasses flash at the top center (the signal to move straight forward).

The ear-bud intones (in a bland female voice): "*Proceed forward for approximately 3 steps, with right hand contact.*"

As you move toward the correct spot, a faint beep grows louder, ending in a "ding." The glasses flash on the right edge. In the ear-bud: "*Pivot to the right, and back up 3 steps, with left hand contact.*"

Lets say you ignore the pivot and back up toward your start point.

No problem with your DanDan Square D™. The glasses flash red. And, "*Stop, collision imminent.*" sounds. Then: "*Proceed quickly on a left diagonal, for approximately 3 steps.*" Again, the growing beep provides guidance.

Oh sure, critics observe that the flashing LEDs and ear bud chatter obscure the faces, laughter, and song around you. If you miss out on some fun, so what? Surely that's a small price to pay for being a perfect dancer.