



## Stepsheet: Gift Swap Contra

### DANCE: "Gift Swap Contra"

CHOREO BY: Taren Wilhelm (USA) – December 2025

LEVEL: Country – Low Improver (Contra Style)

### SONG(S):

"Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee (2:06)

DEMO: [video link](#)

TUTORIAL: [video link](#)

Intro: Dance starts at the beginning of the first verse (0:06)

NOTE 1: The dance can be done with or without gifts. If not using gifts, just high-five instead!

NOTE 2: It is helpful to teach the dance steps for the entire dance, then practice once with high-fives representing the "swap" moments, then add in the gifts for the actual game.

SEQUENCE: A A A A B A A A(½)

#### SECTION A (the singing portion): CONTRA LINES w/ GIFT SWAPPING

##### [ 1 - 8 ] Diagonal Step Touches to the Right [**SWAP**], Diagonal Step Touches to the Left

1, 2 Step R diagonally fwd (1), Step L closed next to R (2)

3, 4 Step R diagonally fwd (3), Step L closed next to R (4)

*\*when facing lines for contra style, dancers will start in windows and will meet on count 4 with the person from their oppositely facing line who is on their right side of the window to start. Dancers will high-five on 4 or **SWAP GIFTS***

5, 6 Step L diagonally fwd (5), Step R closed next to L (6)

7, 8 Step L diagonally fwd (7), Step R closed next to L (8)

##### [ 9 – 16 ] Rocking Chair, [**SWAP**] Pivot ½, Stomp RL

1, 2, 3, 4 Rock R fwd (1), Recover on the L (2), Rock R back (3), Recover on the L (4)

5 Step R fwd (5)

*Dancers will **SWAP GIFTS** with the person they are facing from the OTHER contra-line pairings*

6 Pivot onto the L making a ½ turn over the L shoulder (6)

7, 8 Stomp R to collect (7), Stomp L in place (8)

##### [ 17 – 24 ] (Side-Step) "Hitching U-turn" [**SWAP** in middle]

1, 2 Step R to side (1), Step L closed next to R (2)

3, 4 Step R to side with toes pointed to R to "prep" (3), Hitch L knee making a ¼ turn over Rt shoulder (4)

5, 6 Step L to side (5), Step R closed next to L (6)

*Dancers will **SWAP GIFTS** with the person they are facing from the opposite contra-line (who's "u-turn" also brought them to face in the middle)*

7, 8 Step L to side with heel leading back (7), Hitch R knee making a ¼ turn over Rt shoulder (8)

##### [ 25 – 32 ] (Finish the side-step U-turn), Paddle Full Turn ("Party": Rock around the Christmas Tree)

1, 2 Step R to side (1), Step L closed next to R (2)

3, 4 Step R to side (3), Step L closed next to R (4)

5, 6, 7, 8 Keeping L in place: paddle R to make a full turn

*NOTE: Can opt to not turn and just "party" in place doing alternating knee bends...have fun with it!*

#### SECTION B (the instrumental portion): Turning Vines traveling LOD

##### [ 1 - 8 ] R- Vine turn ½, L - Vine turn ½

1, 2, 3, 4 Step R to side (1), Cross L behind (2), Step R to side pointing toes to R to "prep" (3), Hitch L knee in a low hitch while turning ½ over the R shoulder (4)

5, 6, 7, 8 Step L to side (5), Cross R behind (2), Step L to side pointing toes to L to "prep" (3), Hitch L knee in a low hitch while turning ½ over the R shoulder (4)

##### [ 9 – 64 ] Repeat counts 1-8 to continue doing turning vines around LOD within your contra line pairing rows (Option to do extended weave without turning ½ after each vine)

*NOTE: there is NO gift swapping during this portion and the distance traveled during the turning vines will vary based on venue size and length of stride for the dancers*



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*MESSAGE: Coming together to dance with friends AND even make new friends is part of what I love most about Line Dancing. This dance was inspired by the Christmas game White Elephant (aka Dirty Santa) and the idea to make a similar (speed) version of that game with dancing! On the day I created the dance, I had lessons that night and did not have a chance to pre-advertise my idea for everyone to bring their own gift for a dance game. So I just used whatever merchandise and prizes I had on hand to bring the idea to life and involve everyone. We had so much fun and I hope you do too in whatever version you try out! This dance is dedicated to the Gulf Coast Line Dance Community at Wild Greg's, Pensacola, FL for #BootsOnTheBeachLessons : Keep dancing and high-fiving...and introduce yourself because this is social dancing afterall! ;) Much Love, Taren*

### **Stepsheet & Choreo Questions:**

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