

Company Tap Syllabus

2025-26 Levels:

- PC teams will be starting at the Level 1.
- CC team should start at Level 2.

Need to brush up on your tap? Here are some great resources:

- CLI CLASSES:
 - Nursery Rhyme Tap Time: <https://members.clistudios.com/classes/950>
 - Preschool Tap Class: <https://members.clistudios.com/classes/808>
 - Keeping Tap Alive aged 5-9: <https://members.clistudios.com/classes/832>
 - Working from the ground up: <https://members.clistudios.com/classes/609>
- Online Tap Dance Dictionary (with videos): <https://tapdancedictionary.com/>

Things to remember:

- You can progress through the syllabus as slowly/quickly as the class allows
- Periodically have students demonstrate moves individually, emphasizing correct rhythm and technique
- Don't be afraid to use hands on teaching

TAP LEVEL 1

Single Sound Steps:

- [Toe Tap](#)
- [Heel Dig](#)
- [Knock/Tip](#)
- [Step](#)
- [Stamp](#)
- [Stomp](#)
- [Brush](#)
- [Spank](#)
- [Scuff](#)
- [Heel Drop](#)
- Toe Drop (Toe tap but heel stays on the ground)
- [Chug](#)
- [Hop](#)
- [Leap](#)
- [Jump](#)

Two-Sound Steps:

- Ball-Change
- Heel-Change
- [Flap: brush, step](#)
- [Slap](#)
- [Shuffle: brush \(front\), brush \(back\)](#)
- Ball, Heel
- Heel, Ball
- [Spank, Step](#)
- [Riff: brush, scuff](#)

Three-Sound Steps:

[Flap, Heel](#)

- [Spank, Ball, Heel](#)
- Step, Ball-Change
- [Shuffle, Step](#)
- [Shuffle, Heel](#)
- [Three-Count Riff](#)
- Basic Essence: step, ball-change
- Brush, Hop, Step
- [Drawback: step, spank, heel drop](#)
- Shim Sham: heel dig, spank, stamp

- Shim Sham Shimmy: dig, brush, stamp, dig, brush, stamp, dig, brush, ball-change, dig, brush, stamp

Four-Sound Steps:

- [Flap, Ball-Change](#)
- [Shuffle, Ball-Change](#)
- [Cramp Roll: step, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
- [Buffalo: step, shuffle, leap](#)
- [Flap, Heel, Heel](#)
- Spank, Ball, Heel, Heel
- [Irish: shuffle, hop, step \(traveling front and back\)](#)
- [Back Essence: step, brush, ball-change](#)
- Flap, Tip, Hop
- [Shuffle, Ball, Heel](#)
- [Hop, Shuffle, Step](#) (this video does not have the step. Make sure you add the step after)
- [Waltz Clog: step, shuffle, ball-change](#)
- Four-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel dig, toe drop
- Bombershay: step, flap (traveling sideways)
- [Paradiddle](#): heel dig, spank, step, heel drop

Other Steps:

- Running Flaps
- Lindy: flap, heel drop, heel drop, spank, heel drop, knock, heel drop
- [Maxie Ford](#): step, shuffle, leap, knock

Turns:

- Flap
- Ball, Heel
- Flap, Heel
- Drag Turn

Time Steps:

- [Single Time Step](#) (stomp Hop step flap step)
- [Double Time Step](#) (stomp Hop flap flap step)

TAP LEVEL 2

Steps:

- [Shuffle: brush \(front\), brush \(back\)](#)
- [Scuffle: scuff \(front\), brush \(back\)](#)
- Running Flaps
- Double Paradiddle: heel dig, brush, heel dig, brush, step, heel drop
- [Paddle: heel dig, brush, step](#)
- Lindy: step, ball-change
- [Toe Clicks: any striking of the toes together](#)
- [Heel Clicks: any striking of the heels together](#)
- Riff:
 - [Two-Count Riff: brush, scuff](#)
 - [Three-Count Riff](#)
 - [Four-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, step](#)
 - [Five-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Six-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(front\)](#)
 - [Seven-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(back\), heel drop \(front\)](#)
 - [Eight-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(front\), heel drop \(back\), heel drop \(front\)](#)
- Cramp Rolls:
 - [Regular: step, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Double: flap, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Alternating: R step, L step, L heel drop, R heel drop](#)
 - Progressive: R step, R heel drop, L step, L heel drop
- [Maxie Ford: step, shuffle, leap, knock](#)
- [Back Essence: step, brush, ball-change \(crossing back\)](#)
- Front Essence: step, brush, ball-change (crossing front)
- [Double Buffalo: flap, shuffle, leap](#)
- [Double Irish: shuffle, ball-change, shuffle, hop, step](#)
- [Waltz Clog: step, shuffle, ball-change](#)
- [Drawbacks: step, spank, heel drop](#)
- [Shim Sham](#) (starting on count 8)
 - Dig, brush, stamp, dig, brush, stamp, dig, brush, ball-change, dig, brush, stamp
 - Stomp, brush, step, stomp, brush, step, stomp, brush, ball-change, stomp, brush, step
 - Shuffle, step, shuffle, step, shuffle, ball-change, shuffle, step

Turns:

- [Maxie Ford Turn](#)
- Flap, Ball-Change, Irish
- Single pirouette

- Turning Lindy
- Leap, scuff, leap, knock
- Single Drag Turn

Time Steps:

- [Single Time Step](#) (stomp Hop step flap step)
- [Double Time Step](#) (stomp Hop flap flap step)
- [Triple Time Step](#) (stomp Hop shuffle step flap step)
- [Quadruple Time Step](#) (stomp Hop shuffle step heel flap step)

Flash Steps:

- Pickups
 - Regular Pickups
 - One-footed Pickups
- Start technique for Wings

TAP LEVEL 3

Steps:

- Shuffle
 - [Regular](#)
 - [Double](#)
 - 1 ½ (brush spank brush, spank brush spank)
- [Scuffle](#)
- Running flaps
- [Heel and toe clicks](#)
- Riff:
 - [Two-Count Riff: brush, scuff](#)
 - [Three-Count Riff](#)
 - [Four-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, step](#)
 - [Five-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Six-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(front\)](#)
 - [Seven-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(back\), heel drop \(front\)](#)
 - [Eight-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop \(front\), heel drop \(back\), heel drop \(front\)](#)
 - Eleven-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush (crossing), heel drop, brush (uncross), scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop
 - Twelve-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush (crossing), heel drop, brush (uncross), scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop (front)
 - Thirteen-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush (crossing), heel drop, brush (uncross), scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop (back), heel drop (front)
- Cramp roll:
 - [Regular: step, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Double: flap, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Triple: shuffle, step, heel drop, heel drop](#)
 - [Alternating: R step, L step, L heel drop, R heel drop](#)
 - Progressive: R step, R heel drop, L step, L heel drop
 - [Reverse: Heel dig, heel dig, toe drop, toe drop](#)
- Five-count paradiddle: heel dig, spank, heel drop, step, heel drop
- [Paddle](#)
- [Double back essence](#) spank, step, flap step (cross behind)
- Double front essence: flap, brush, ball-change (crossing front)
- Triple Buffalo: shuffle, step, shuffle, leap
- [Double waltz clog](#): flap, shuffle, ball-change
- [Cincinnati](#): spank, heel, shuffle, heel, step
- [Crossing drawbacks](#): spank, heel, step
- Rolling shuffles: hop, shuffle, hop

Turns:

- [Paddle turn](#)
- [Maxie Ford Turn](#)
- Flap, ball-change, irish (shuffle, hop, step)
- Double pirouette
- Turning lindy
- [Turning buffalo](#)
- Double drag turn
- [Stamp cramp roll turn](#)
- Brush, hop, step

Time Steps:

- [Single Time Step](#) (stomp Hop step flap step)
- [Double Time Step](#) (stomp Hop flap flap step)
- [Triple Time Step](#) (stomp Hop shuffle step flap step)
- [Quadruple Time Step](#) (stomp Hop shuffle step heel flap step)

ON FLASH STEPS

TAP LEVEL 4

Steps:

- Shuffle:
 - Double
 - 1 ½
 - Rolling: hop, shuffle, hop
- Riff: (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13)
 - Twenty-Four-Count Riff: brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush (crossing), heel drop, brush (uncross), scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush, heel drop, brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, brush, heel drop, brush, scuff, heel drop, heel dig, toe drop, heel drop
- Cramp Roll:
 - Regular
 - Double: flap, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Triple: shuffle, step, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Alternating: R step, L step, L heel drop, R heel drop
 - Progressive: R step, R heel drop, L step, L heel drop
 - Reverse: heel dig, heel dig, toe drop, toe drop
 - Toe Stand: tip, tip, step, step
- Triple Essence: shuffle, step, brush, ball-change
- Double Back Essence: flap, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change
- Double Virginia Essence: flap, brush, heel dig, step, brush, touch, heel drop, brush, heel dig, step
- Waltz Clog: variations
- Cincinnati Triple: brush, heel drop, brush, heel drop, brush, hop, shuffle, step
- Crossing Drawbacks
- Shim Sham Shimmy (starting on count 8)
- The Shim Sham
 - The Crossover
 - The Tack Annie
 - The Half Break
 - Repeat the entire combination with the Freeze Chorus

Turns:

- Toe Stand Turns
- Maxie Ford Pickup Turn
- Triple Pirouette
- Triple Drag Turn
- Alternating Cramp Roll Turn
- Turning Drawbacks
- Turning Buffalo (single, double, triple)

- Barrel Turn

Time-Steps:

- Standard Time-Step
- Any combination of single/double/triple/quadruple sounds
- Soft Shoe Time-Step: extended version of the Double Back Essence
 - Flap, brush, step, step (3x) brush, step, step, brush, step, step
- Traveling Time-Step

Flash Steps:

- Pickups
 - Pickups in place (regular)
 - Pickovers
 - Syncopated Pickups (forward and back)
 - Swaps
 - Bullets
- Wings
 - Regular
 - One-footed
 - Syncopated
 - Wings ending with a tip
- Shovels
- Over the tops
- Slides

TAP LEVEL 5

Steps:

- Flam
- All Riffs
- Cramp Rolls:
 - Regular
 - Double: flap, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Triple: shuffle, step, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Alternating: R step, L step, L heel drop, R heel drop
 - Progressive: R step, R heel drop, L step, L heel drop
 - Reverse: heel dig, heel dig, toe drop, toe drop
 - Toe Stand: tip, tip, step, step
- Triple Essence: shuffle, step, brush, ball-change
- Double Back Essence: flap, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change
- Double Virginia Essence: flap, brush, heel dig, step, brush, touch, heel drop, brush, heel dig, step
- Crossing Drawbacks
- Shim Sham Shimmy
 - First Chorus
 - Freeze Chorus
 - B.S. Chorus

Turns:

- Split Toe Stand turn
- Add pickups to fundamental turns
- Pirouette (four or more turns)
- Drag Turn (four or more turns)
- Alternating Double Cramp Roll Turn
- Turning Drawbacks
- Turning Buffalo (single, double, triple)

Time-Steps:

- All single/double/triple/quadruple combinations
- Wing Time-Step
- Pick-Up Time-Step
- Traveling Time-Step (single, double, triple)

Flash Steps:

- Pickups
 - Pickups and pickovers in place
 - Syncopated in all directions and turning

- Bullets
 - Trenches
 - Crossing pickups
 - Pickups to toe stand
- Wings
 - One-footed
 - Syncopated
 - Wings ending with a tip
 - Toe Stand
 - Pendulum Wing
- Shovels
- Over the tops
- Slides (any direction)

TAP LEVEL 6

Steps:

- Flam
- All Riffs
- Cramp Roll:
 - Regular
 - Double: flap, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Triple: shuffle, step, step, heel drop, heel drop
 - Alternating: R step, L step, L heel drop, R heel drop
 - Progressive: R step, R heel drop, L step, L heel drop
 - Reverse: heel dig, heel dig, toe drop, toe drop
 - Toe Stand: tip, tip, step, step
- Triple Essence: shuffle, step, brush, ball-change
- Double Back Essence: flap, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change, brush, ball-change
- Double Virginia Essence: flap, brush, heel dig, step, brush, touch, heel drop, brush, heel dig, step
- Crossing Drawbacks
- Shim Sham Shimmy
 - First Chorus
 - Freeze Chorus
 - B.S. Chorus

Turns:

- Split Toe Stand Turn
- Add pickups to fundamental turns
- Pirouette (four or more turns)
- Drag Turn (four or more turns)
- Alternating Double Cramp Roll Turn
- Turning Drawbacks
- Turning Buffalo (single, double, triple)

Time-Steps:

- All single/double/triple/quadruple combinations
- Wing Time-Step
- Pick-Up Time-Step
- Traveling Time-Step (single, double, triple)
- Eight-Count Riff Time-Step
- Buffalo Time-Step

Flash Steps:

- Pickups

- Pickups and pickovers in place
 - Syncopated in all directions and turning
 - Bullets
 - Trenches
 - Crossing pickups
 - Pickups to toe stand
- Wings
 - One-Footed
 - Syncopated
 - Wings ending with a tip
 - Toe Stand
 - Pendulum Wing
- Shovels
- Over the tops
- Slides (any direction)