

# LEVEL 1

## Goals

- Develop rhythm and coordination
- Understand full counts up to 8
- Build confidence and listening skills

## Technique

- Parallel and turned out feet positioning
- Proper weight placement
- Toe
- Heel`
- Ball
- Step
- Stamp
- Stomp
- Touch
- Brush
- Shuffle
- Spank
- Hop
- Jump
- Ball Change
- Step Heel
- Heel Step
- Flap
- Scuff
- Dig
- Chug
- Cramp Roll
- Single Irish
- Paradiddle (intro)

## Across the Floor

- Shuffle step
- Step Ball Changes
- Flaps

- Basic combinations

## **Rhythm & Musicality**

- Count to 8
- Full notes
- Keeping a steady beat
- Shim Sham combo

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Fqfv4hvxFdA&pp=ygUZU2hpbSBzaGFtIHNoaW1teSB0aXRscmlhbA%3D%3D&ra=m> paired with song

<https://music.apple.com/us/album/the-shim-sham-song/397055926?i=397055937>

## **Performance Skills**

- Smiles
- Eye contact
- Following choreography
- Stage directions

## **Promotion Requirements**

- Consistent rhythm
  - Correct execution of basic vocabulary
  - Ability to remember choreography
  - Positive classroom behavior
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# **TAP LEVEL 2**

## **Goals**

- Improve clarity of sounds
- Introduce traveling combinations
- Increase speed and coordination

## **Technique**

Review Level 1 plus:

- Drawbacks
- Cincinatti/ Shirley Temple
- Single & double Buffalo/ maxi ford

- Double Irish

## **Across the Floor**

- Buffaloes
- Traveling Flaps
- Cramp Roll combinations
- Irish progressions
- Beginning time steps

## **Rhythm**

- Half notes
- Syncopation (intro)
- Tempo changes
- Shim Sham combo

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Fqfv4hvxFdA&pp=ygUZU2hpbSBzaGFtIHNoaW1teSB0aXRscmlhbA%3D%3D&ra=m> paired with song  
<https://music.apple.com/us/album/the-shim-sham-song/397055926?i=397055937>

## **Performance Skills**

- Musical expression
- Stronger arm placement
- Confidence performing in groups

## **Promotion Requirements**

- Clean sounds
  - Rhythm accuracy
  - Ability to execute traveling steps
  - Memorization of longer combinations
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# **TAP LEVEL 3**

## **Goals**

- Develop speed and articulation
- Increase rhythmic complexity
- Build improvisation skills

## Technique

Review Levels 1–2 plus:

- Paradiddle
- Single Pullback
- Toe Stand (intro)
- Wings (prep)
- Maxi Ford
- Buffalo variations
- Drawbacks
- Time Step variations
- Paddle & Roll
- Riff
- Essence (intro)
- Shim Sham Shimmy
- Rudiments 1-8

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0WYPhq&JRPRMXXSINOSRAqM3UWPYvg2G>

## Across the Floor

- Pullback drills
- Paddle & Roll progressions
- Traveling Time Steps
- Buffalo combinations

## Rhythm

- Triplets
- Syncopation
- Rhythm reading
- Improvisation exercises

## Performance Skills

- Dynamic performance quality
- Clean timing
- Precision in formations

## Promotion Requirements

- Consistent rhythm
- Strong articulation
- Intermediate combinations
- Beginning improvisation

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# TAP LEVEL 4

## Goals

- Advanced rhythm
- Speed control
- Performance versatility

## Technique

Review previous levels plus:

- Double Pullbacks
- Wings
- Toe Stand combinations
- Drawback variations
- Over-the-Tops
- Open Toe Heel
- Riff Walks
- Triple Paradiddles
- Multiple Time Step combinations
- Cincinnati variations
- Essence
- Pullback combinations
- Shim Sham Shimmy
- Rudiments 1-8

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0WYPHq8JRPRMXXSINOSRAqM3UWPYvg2G>

## Across the Floor

- Wings
- Double Pullbacks
- Traveling riffs
- Combination drills

## Rhythm

- Complex syncopation
- Improvisation circles

## Performance Skills

- Stage presence
- Musical interpretation
- Clean transitions
- Style variation

### **Promotion Requirements**

- Strong technique
  - Rhythm consistency
  - Performance maturity
  - Ability to improvise confidently
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## **TAP LEVEL 5**

### **Goals**

- Professional-level execution
- Advanced rhythm interpretation
- Performance artistry
- Individual style

### **Technique**

Master all previous material plus:

- Triple Pullbacks
- Toe Stand progressions
- Advanced Wings
- Flash Steps
- Trading Fours
- Advanced Time Steps
- Complex Paradiddle variations
- Pullback combinations
- Turning Wings
- Toe Turns
- Rhythm Turns
- Slides
- Syncopated combinations
- Shim Sham Shimmy
- Rudiments 1-8

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0WYPHq8JRPRMXXSINOSRAqM3UWPYvg2G>

- Improvisation

## **Across the Floor**

- Advanced traveling combinations
- Speed drills
- Improvisation passes
- Performance combinations

## **Rhythm**

- Swing rhythms
- Jazz phrasing
- Musical interpretation
- Improvisation

## **Performance Skills**

- Advanced artistry
- Audience connection
- Solo confidence
- Leadership in class

## **Promotion Requirements**

- Mastery of all vocabulary
  - Excellent timing
  - Strong improvisation
  - Professional performance quality
  - Leadership and class readiness
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# **Skills Expected at Every Level**

Each class should include:

- **Warm-Up (10–15 min):** Foot articulation, ankle strengthening, rhythm drills, stretching
- **Center Technique (15–20 min):** Vocabulary review and new skills
- **Across the Floor (10–15 min):** Traveling combinations and progressions
- **Combination (10–15 min):** Choreography applying current skills
- **Improvisation & Rhythm Games (5–10 min):** Musicality, call-and-response, freestyle, and rhythm challenges

- **Cool Down (5 min):** Stretching and reflection