

Anna's Adventures

Von Steuben's Facing Commands

HISTORY Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben (1730-1794) was a Prussian who played a key role in the training of the Continental Army. His experience in the Prussian army provided a basis on which to train the troops. In January 1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, Steuben began with a "model company," a group of about 100 chosen men, and trained them starting with the school of the soldier, with and without arms, and continuing through the school of the regiment. Those men in turn, took what they learned and taught the men in their brigades. The men learned formations, facing commands, firing motions, marching, as well as proper dress and conduct. Von Steuben also established standards of sanitation and camp layouts. Because of his success, Washington appointed him Inspector General of the Continental Army. He wrote a manual of arms titled *Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States*, commonly known as the army's "blue book", published in 1779, based on the plan he developed at Valley Forge.

**RIGHT
FACE**

Turn on both heels to the right, lifting the toes a little. Bring back the right foot.



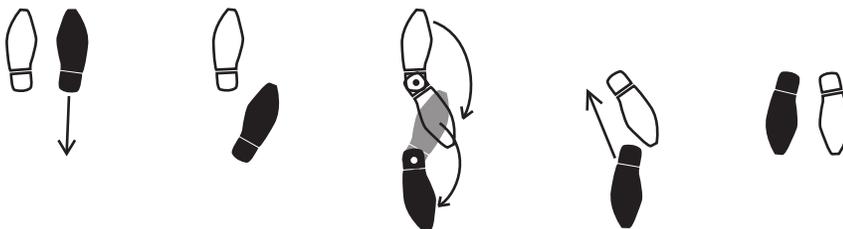
**LEFT
FACE**

Turn on both heels to the left, lifting the toes a little. Bring up the right foot.



**RIGHT
ABOUT
FACE**

Step back with the right foot, bringing your big toe opposite your left heel, at the same time placing your right hand on your hip. Turn around on both heels. Bring back the right foot and put your right hand down.



Did you know?

Musicians would often wear reversed colored coats so the officers could easily identify them during battle. Drums were used to send commands to the troops, whether it was in the camp or on the battlefield.

