

Tips for Creating a Dance in Dance Designer

Music

Many choreographers use iTunes to store and purchase music. Click below for directions on getting your music into Dance Designer.

[Adding Music from iTunes](#)

[Adding Music from a CD](#)

Counts

On occasion choreographers may want to wait until after a musical introduction before they begin counting. This is when you would want to use the "move first count" feature.

To move first count:

- Click **Move 1st Count**. A message appears asking you to select the count on which you want the first phrase to begin.
- Click the count on the count track. The number turns blue.
- Click **OK**.
- The counts now start on the first count of the first phrase on the count you selected.

Dance Designer finds the beats in a piece of music, but does not know how a choreographer wants to count it. If you want to count the music ½ time or double time, you can use the Count Tempo feature.

To change the way Dance Designer counts the music:

- Click **Count Properties**.
- The **Count Properties** window appears.
- Select the **Half Time, Straight Time, or Double Time** option.
- Click **Change Time**.

Dancers

Choreographers sometimes find it helpful to name their dancers or color them by costume color, group, etc.

Changing a dancer's name or color:

- On the Dancers tab, click **Properties**. The **Dancer/Prop Properties** window appears.
- To change a dancer's name, click in one of the fields under Display Name and type to change the name.



- To change the dancer color, click on a colored square. The **Color Options** window appears.
- Click on one of the predefined colors, then click **OK**.

Or,

Click on a color and customize it by moving the Red, Green, and Blue sliders. The preview displays the custom color. When you are happy with the color, click **OK**.

Path

When creating a path, the default angle is sharp. For a softer fluid path you may want to try using a soft angle.

To change the angle of an existing recorded position:

- Select a dancer on stage, right-click the dancer's recorded position, and choose **Change to Sharp Angle** or **Change to Soft Angle** from the menu.

Or,

On the timeline (Music or Video tab), right-click a recorded position, and choose **Change to Sharp Angle** or **Change to Soft Angle** from the menu.

Choreographers may want their dancers to stay in one position for several counts before moving to a new position.

To have dancers stay in one position:

- Record them in their starting position.
- Play the music and pause at the time when they would "start" moving and record them in the same position. (This way they will stay in the same spot and not move immediately).
- Then, play the music and pause at the point they would reach their next position.
- Move them to their next position and record that position.

When choreographing in Dance Designer there can be many recorded positions, making it hard to distinguish among several dancers' paths.

To reduce the view of the path to see less recorded positions:

- Select dancers. The entire path is displayed.
- Click the **Reduce Path View** button on the Path Tools bar. This will reduce the path view to two seconds before and two after the current cursor bar position.



If you prefer to hide the path:

- Click the **Path Properties** button
- Deselect the **Show Paths** check box to hide all paths.

Notes

When writing notes it may not be necessary to use all of the columns provided in Dance Designer.

To view or hide any of the categories:

- Click **Notes Properties**. The Notes Properties window appears.
- Deselect the check boxes next to the categories you want to hide and click **OK**. Any categories that have a check box selected as visible will show on the page.

Reports

When preparing to print a choreography report you may want to change what appears on the cover page.

To change your dance information:

- Click the **File** menu
- Click the **Dance Information** command.
- Edit/Add information to the dance information window.
- The new information will display on the cover page once the report has been refreshed.
- To refresh your report, go to the **Report tab**, click **Select Report** and select the report of your choice. The report will refresh upon display.



Video

After importing a video you may want it to playback to a clean music track.

To sync a video with a music track:

- On the Music tab, add the music file
- On the Video tab, add the video file.
- Mute the music file on the music track.
- Select the video track by clicking on the video track timeline.
- Play the video and find an obvious accent or down beat.
- Pause or move the cursor bar to that accent or down beat.
- Click **Sync Mark**. A yellow bar indicates the sync mark on the video track.
- Mute the video on the video track.
- Un-mute the music on the music track.
- Select the music track on the timeline.
- Play the music and find the same accent or down beat as in the video file and move the cursor bar to that location.
- Click **Sync Mark**. A yellow bar indicates the sync mark on the music track.
- Click **Synchronize**. This slides the video track to match your music track and they will be in sync.

Customer Support

For technical support and customer care, please go to: choreopro.com.

Choreo Technology, LLC
PO Box 5700
Los Alamitos, CA 90721
562.735.3150