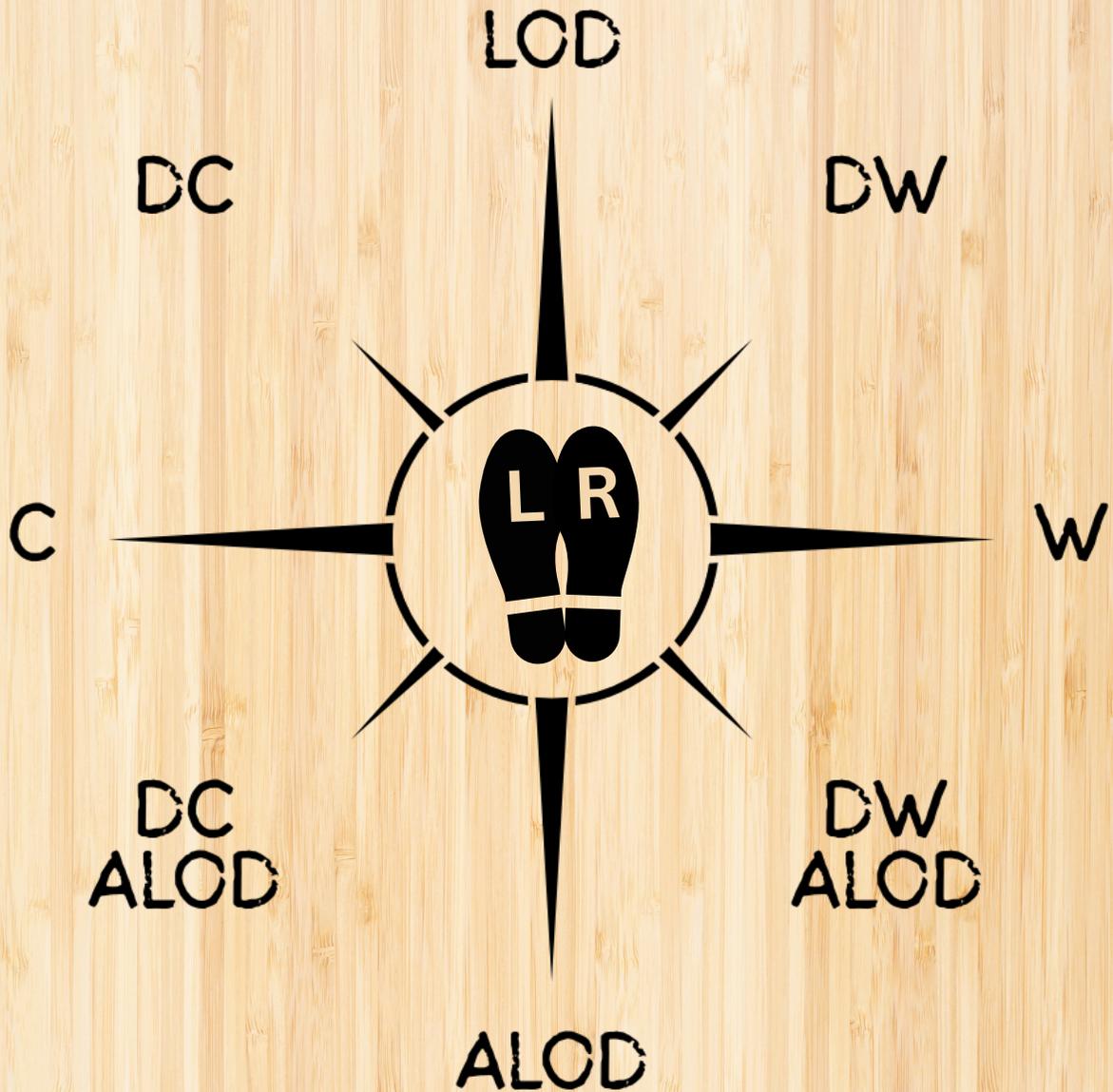
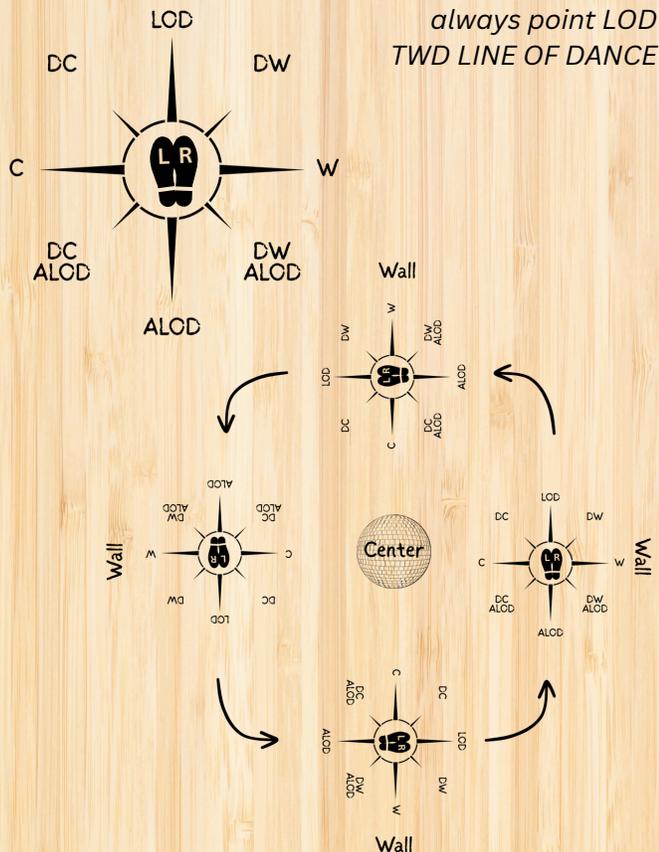


# ALIGNMENT COMPASS





# ALIGNMENT COMPASS



- **Line of Dance (LOD)** – Think of this as North. It’s the direction dancers travel around the perimeter of the dance floor, usually counterclockwise.
- **Against Line of Dance (ALOD)** – Like South. Directly opposite of LOD. Moving against the natural traffic flow.
- **Wall (W)** – Like East. Toward the outer edge of the room (or toward the audience in many performances).
- **Center (C)** – Like West. Toward the center of the dance floor (inward direction).
- **Diagonal Wall (DW)** – Like Northeast. Toward a spot between LOD and Wall.
- **Diagonal Center (DC)** – Like Northwest. Toward a spot between LOD and Center.
- **Against Diagonal Wall (DW ALOD)** – Like Southeast. Opposite of DW; diagonally back toward the Wall.
- **Against Diagonal Center (DC ALOD)** – Like Southwest. Opposite of DC; diagonally back toward the Center.

After learning the Key Room Alignments, it’s important to understand the qualifying terms that often accompany them. These words provide additional detail that helps dancers interpret how to orient their bodies or how a step is being executed in relation to a specific direction. You’ll hear these terms frequently in both group and private instruction, choreography breakdowns, and dance manuals. Here are the most common qualifying terms associated with room alignments:

- **Facing (F.)** - This means the front of your body is pointed in the specified direction.
- **Backing (B.)** - The opposite of facing—your back is toward the specified direction, and you are either stepping backward into it or exiting a figure with your back to that alignment.
- **Pointing (P.)** - Used mostly in foot placements, “pointing” refers to the direction your foot is aimed, regardless of where your body is facing.
- **Moving Toward (M.)** - Describes the direction your step travels—not necessarily where your body is facing. This is especially useful in steps involving body rotation – or when traveling in one direction while facing another.
- **End Alignment (E.)** - This term refers to where the body is oriented \*after\* completing a figure. It’s commonly used when describing the result of a turn or sequence of steps.



# ALIGNMENT COMPASS

*always point LOD TWD  
LINE OF DANCE*

