



# **Flower Mound High School Color Guard Clinic**

**CLINICIAN:**

**William Martin**

**DEMONSTRATION GROUP:**

**Flower Mound Color Guard**

## **Texas Bandmasters Association 2017 Convention/Clinic**

**JULY 20 – 22, 2017**

**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



## **“Growing Your Color Guard into a VERSATILE Ensemble”**

- Establish a strong Technical Base
  - Consistently review technique exercises (Every day or Every other day)
  - Have the entire color guard train together in Movement, Flag, and Rifle blocks
- When Training on Weapon: Separate the Tossing block by lines according to rotation skill sets i.e. Double Line, Triple Line, Quad Line, Five Line, etc. (This makes it more of a graduated system, makes it more competitive to the members, and serves as a visual representation of their growth)

Flag Technique: Pull Hits, Drop Spins, Cones (Around the World)

Rifle Technique: Rifle Spins, Spins and Stops, Rifle Phases 1-10, Tossing: Singles through Quads as an ensemble.

## **Choreography Example, Explanation, and Demonstration: Opening Flag Hit 2018**

Opening Flag Choreography:

- Why did we choose to start the show with a 6ft flag vs. Movement or Swing flag?
- Why is it layered the way it is?
- What can we do to elevate the staging presented?

## **Teaching Choreography LIVE: Ending Flag Statement**

Closer Choreography

- What’s the benefit of teaching choreography ahead of time?
- Is the choreography written to the students’ current skill set? Or the students’ future skill set (4-5 months from now)?
- Is it choreographed with potential “Holds” (Features) in mind vs. movement (drill) on the field?
- Will the choreography taught be useful during the Winter Guard season?

## **The “Color Guard Teaching Methods I live by”:**

- **Whole Method:** Easy “Filler Choreography”; Parts that connect the bigger feature moments- usually ensemble flag moments. Very useful during band camp with you have long periods of time to rehearse.
- **Part Method:** Usually very useful in split sections. Teaching the weapons specific “skills” one at a time, over time (summer video homework).
- **Whole-Part-Whole Method:** Very useful for Texas color guard directors who always have the “8 hour rule” to deal with. Great when having to teach a big chunk of choreography in a short amount of time- for example the day before a football game or contest.
- **Progressive Method:** Great for beginners- Teaching them a phrase at a time, separate, and slow, until you end up with a bigger chunk of choreography! Great for flag lines that are “younger” in age or experience!



Please feel free to Contact me with any  
Questions!!

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