

START

FLY'S IN THE BUTTER MILK SHOO FLY SHOO FLY'S IN THE BUTTER MILK  
 SHOO FLY SHOO FLY'S IN THE BUTTER MILK SHOO FLY SHOO SKIP TO MY  
 LOU MY DARLING SKIP SKIP SKIP TO MY LOU SKIP SKIP SKIP  
 TO MY LOU SKIP SKIP SKIP TO MY LOU SKIP TO MY LOU MY  
 DARLING

CHORUS IS IN BLUE

CHANGE BLACK WORDS IN SONG TO FOLLOWING FOR COMPLETE SONG;

- THERE'S A LITTLE RED WAGON, PAINT IT BLUE. (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)
- I LOST MY PARTNER, WHAT'LL I DO? (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)
- I'LL GET ANOTHER, AS PRETTY AS YOU (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)
- CAN'T GET A RED BIRD, JAY BIRD'LL DO. (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)
- CAT'S IN THE CREAM JAR, OOH, OOH, OOH. (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)
- OFF TO TEXAS, TWO BY TWO. (repeat 2 times then CHORUS)

ANOTHER VERSION

Fly in the buttermilk, Shoo, shoo, shoo! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling!  
 Lou, Lou skip to my Lou! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.

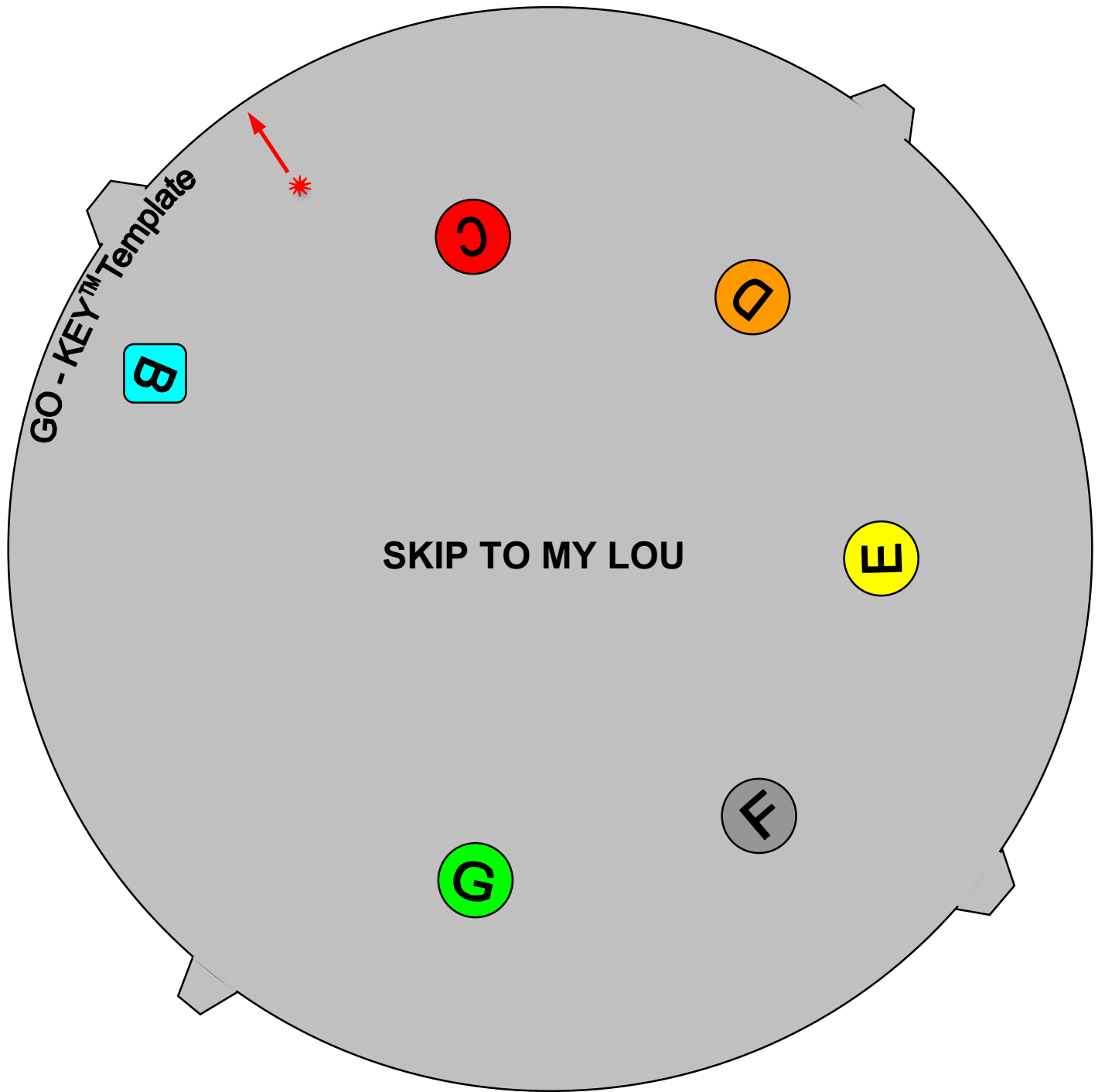
Cows in the pasture two by two! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling!  
 Lou, Lou skip to my Lou, (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.

(sound sad) Lost my partner, What'll I do? (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling!  
 Lou, Lou skip to my Lou, (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.

(sound happy) I'll find another one better than you! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling!

Found my partner love is true! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling!  
 Lou, Lou skip to my Lou! (repeat 2 times)  
 Skip to my Lou, my darling.

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## History and Origin

"Skip to My Lou" is a popular children's song.

"Skip to My (The) Lou" is a popular American partner-stealing dance from the 1840s.

It was also a popular lyrical game in Abraham Lincoln's youth in southern Indiana and Kentucky (1826) with verses such as "Hurry up slow poke, do oh do", "I'll get her back in spite of you", "Gone again, what shall I do", and "I'll get another girl sweeter than you".

"Skip to My Lou" is a simple game of stealing partners (or swapping partners as in square dancing). It begins with any number of couples skipping hand in hand around in a ring. A lone boy in the center of the moving circle of couples sings, "Lost my partner, what'll I do?" as the girls whirl past him. The young man in the center hesitates while he decides which girl to choose, singing, "I'll get another one just like you." When he grasps the hand of his chosen one, the latter's partner moves to the center of the ring the game. It is an ice-breaker, providing an opportunity for the participants to get acquainted with one another and to get into a good mood.

The "lou" in the title comes from the word "loo", a Scottish word for "love".