

Contradanza

(Italy, Sicily)

This is among the most common dances in Sicily, and is currently danced during weddings and other festivities. It is also known as *Cuntradanza* and *Quattrigghia*, and follows only in part the rules of the French Contradanse, from which it derives.

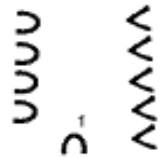
Pronunciation: KOHN-trah-DAHNSAH

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Danze Italiane Vol. 1*, Band 15

Formation: Couples in a longway set, from 6 to 10. Woman 1 stands inside the set.

Steps: Basic step: Step on R (ct 1); small lift on R lifting L leg (ct &); step on L (ct 2) ("limping" step). This step is used in Fig I and II.

Gallop: wide step with R with slightly bent knee (ct 1); slide L next to R with wt and straighten both knees. Can be done with opp ftwrk.



Meas

Music: 2/4 meter

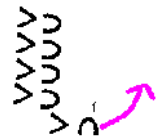
Pattern

INTRODUCTION No introduction. Start with music.



I. FIGURE I

- 1-16 With Basic steps, the last M guides the line of M in front of the W, passing between W1 and W2 and ending behind ptr. At the end, M1 takes hands with W1 and W2 and starts moving on the circle (CCW), followed by the other cpls, holding hands. W1 then leads the line CCW to form a semi-circle.



II. SEWING

- 1-40 When the semi-circle is complete, W1 leads the line of cpls into a serpentine, passing under arches made by other cpls, moving always CCW. If there is a small number of cpls in the set, there is time for 3 circles through an arch; if a larger number of cpls makes up the set, only 2 circuits may be possible.



- 41-48 W1 lead their sets to join the last M in the next set (CCW direction) so that a large set of all the dancers is formed. When the circle is complete, the single line changes into a circle of cpls walking side by side, M on inside of circle.

III. FLOWER

- 1-2 M drop quickly onto R knee and direct ptr twd ctr of circle with R hand. M then stand up, L shldr to the ctr. W, after turning with R shldr to ctr, dance 4 gallops to R, going into the circle.

Contradanza—continued

- 3-4 W make complete turn in place to L with 4 steps, arms extended at sides, starting with L arm held low and R high, lifting first R arm, then L arm high, and finally R high.
- 5-6 W dance 4 gallops to L, going out and ending facing ptr.
- 7-8 With 4 gallops to R, M and W change places, turning CCW.
- 9-16 While W stand on the circle, M repeat meas 1-8.
- 17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

IV. BASKET

- 1-4 W walk fwd twd ctr, join hands and raise arms high.
- 5-8 M walk fwd holding hands and step between two W under their arches, then W lower arms behind M back.
- 9-16 All dance 16 gallop steps to R (step, close, step, close, etc.).
- 17-20 W raise arms and lower them in front of M, then M raise their arms and lower them in front of W.
- 21-28 All dance 16 gallop steps to L.
- 29-32 Releasing hands, but keeping arms extended, all dance 8 skipping (or walking) steps bkwd, joining hands at the end with neighbors.

V. FIGURE V

- 1-4 Everybody walk 4 steps fwd and 4 steps bkwd.
- 5-8 W walk 4 steps fwd, turn 1/2 to L, then walk 4 step fwd ending in front of ptr.
- 9-16 Holding ptr with R hand on ptr's L hip, with L arm raised high, turn CW with 16 step-hop steps.

Presented by Roberto Bagnoli