

## NEAPOLITAN TARANTELLA

Record: There is no specific record for the tarantella. This version, which contains typical figures, may be done to different tarantella records. Columbia 14345 is good.

Formation: Couples in a circle. Girl is on boy's left; his left arm encircles her waist, her right hand is on his left shoulder, outside hands dangle freely. Girl dances with a tambourine, shaking it, occasionally striking it for emphasis (remember to switch it from hand to hand so it does not interfere with the figure).

### Figure 1. Step hops forward.

Both begin on right foot. Step forward on right foot, and then hop on it; step hop on left foot; run forward on right foot, then left; step on right foot and then hop on it. (Call "step hop, step hop, run, run, step hop.") Repeat three more times, beginning next with left, then right, then left foot.

On the step hops, bring the other foot up behind the leg with the weight on it, lifting foot so sole is facing up (i.e., make as if to kick back of right knee with side of left foot, while hopping on right foot). Lean over as you move forward in this step, both bending at the knees and at the waist, sweeping outside arms from side to side as you move. The whole figure is done in a lusty, earthy style.

### Figure 2. Hip bumping.

Face partner, girls with back to center of circle. Each does a pas de pas to the right, beginning with right foot (three light, lively steps, executed on the balls of the feet); then a pas de pas to the left; turn to the right three-quarters of the way around, with three steps, ending with right hip toward partner. Step toward partner with right foot, slide left to it, repeat; then bump right hips and turn to the left with four steps to face partner again.

Repeat all, beginning to the left. Hands are held high, snapping fingers, arms constantly in motion. (Try not to move arms as if you were winding yarn -- the idea of the motion is that the dance music is so exciting you cannot hold still but must dance with every part of your body.)

### Figure 3. Hop past partner.

Take four hops on right foot to change places with partner, passing by right shoulders; turn in place with four steps to face partner. Repeat back to place, hopping on left foot, passing left shoulders.

For the hops, the whole body leans forward. When hopping on right foot, right arm is extended forward and up, left arm hangs down and to the back, left leg trails behind (reverse all on way back). Take small hops -- do not move too far past partner, but turn close together. This is a flirtatious dance, and this figure is not designed to test your hopping ability but to give you a chance to "warm up" to your partner.

(Page 2)

(Last Night I Dreamed We Were In Dayton)

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Neapolitan Tarantella (cont.)

Figure 4. Girl around boy.

Boy stays in place and does a lively pas de pas step, and/or skipping step, keeping his eye always on the girl. Hands are kept in motion; held above head, snapping fingers, etc.

The girl meantime, polkas around the boy, clockwise, with eight polka or pas de pas steps. She may hold her skirt, snap her fingers as she moves around, shake her tambourine -- or take a few turns as she goes -- anything, in a flirtatious manner, to catch the boy's eye.

Figure 5. Step-kick forward

Take original position, girl on boy's left, and move forward with sixteen little step-kicks, arms swinging gaily in air, backs straight. The kick is not high -- foot should be kept close to the floor, but the step should be crisp and lively.

(To do the step-kick, begin with weight on left foot; step with emphasis on right foot, as if slapping floor with sole of foot and at same time extend left leg straight forward, toe extended and pointed down; then slap left foot on ground and extend right leg; etc. Don't let this degenerate into a goose-step; it's not a march step but a dance.)

Figure 6. Girl around boy.

Repeat Figure 4.

Figure 7. Change places with a turn.

Face partner, about four feet apart, girl with back to center of circle. Move toward each other, with four steps; when partners meet, put right hand on partner's left hip (right hips side by side) and give each other a spin to start turn. Continue in same direction as each finishes a complete turn and a quarter, with four steps, to end up in partner's position, facing partner.

Repeat back to place, turning partner with left arm. On this turn move in close to each other, so that you can assume proper position for the last figure.

Figure 8. Step hops forward

Repeat Figure 1.

Some records have enough music to do the entire dance through twice, or twice and a half.

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(Page 3)

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