

PEERDESPRONG

(Horse Jump)

Dutch Dance

*Netherlands*

Source: This delightful dance with its touch of horsey whimsy came to us through Jo van Zwol, who taught folk dancing in the Netherlands for many years before he came to San Francisco to dance with us here in California.

Record: The Pan Piper PD-5701 Side A

Formation: A set of four couples is formed, making a square, all facing center, W to R of M. Head couples are those facing the music and those with their backs to the music on opposite sides of the square. The other two couples are called side couples.

Pattern A

Head couples take ballroom pos, extended arms pointing to center. On ct 1 cpls leap slightly fwd and dnwd on outside feet, letting inside feet fly up behind by bending the knee sharply. On cts 2, 3, and 1, 2, 3, of the next meas take 5 more steps twd ctr, gradually rising so that cpls meet in ctr with arms high in air. On next 2 meas return bkwd to place with 6 steps.

On ct. 1 same cpls repeat the dnwd leap, then run 5 more steps across set, M passing bk to bk, to each other's places. On next 2 meas turn halfway CCW in place to face ctr, M moving bkwd.

Repeat entire pattern to bring head cpls home to original places.

Repeat all with side cpls.

Chorus

All face ptrs, shoulder-waist pos, lean away from each other. Step M's L, W's R, at same time kicking other ft up behind by bending the knee sharply. Alternate R and L with this quick little kick, all the time cpls turning in place CW. There are 24 kick steps to complete the chorus. Usually cpls make 2 complete revolutions.

Pattern B

Head cpls, side by side, facing ctr, take RHs. M stands still in place. M leads W fwd with his RH into the dnwd leap, then releases her as she moves twd ctr and the opposite W who is dancing the same pattern. Both W hold R arm curved gracefully in front, H held just a little higher than the head. Meet opposite W at ctr, R shoulders adjacent, looking at each other, at end of the first 2 meas. Return bkwd to place, still keeping arm curved in front, smile at ptr and leap dnwd again twd ctr. Cross to opposite M with next 5 steps, passing L shoulders with opposite W. M raises his RH and takes W's raised RH. He then, in the next 2 meas turns her under his R arm to the place at his R in the simplest way. She follows her R arm around under his, passing him with her bk to him. She has only a little way to go so this movement should be slow with plenty of time for a nice smile for each other under the arched arms.

Repeat pattern to return head W to places.

Repeat all with the side W.

Those not actively dancing may stand still or move a bit in rhythm as they choose.

Chorus

PeerdesprongPattern C

Head couples turn to their RH neighbors and in the original ballroom pos take the dnwd leap and 5 steps twd each other, coming face to face with arms high and returning bkwd to place. Repeat the fwd movement, M releasing W to exchange them, W passing L shoulders to opposite M, M dancing in place. Cpls turn CW bk to place, M moving fwd.

Repeat the above 4 meas pattern to return W to original ptrns.

Repeat the entire pattern with cpls on L of head cpls.

ChorusPattern D

Drop Hs, face directly twd ctr. All step R straight to side R (do not follow circular line) on ct. 1). Close L to R on ct. 2 and also clap. Hold still for ct. 3. Step R straight to side R on ct. 1, close L on ct. 2 and also clap. Hold still for ct. 3. Stand still for next 2 meas but clap on ct. 2 of each.

Repeat this step and clap pattern in reverse, using L ft to return to place.

Take original ballroom pos. All 4 cpls move to ctr with dnwd leap and 5 steps, ending with all extended arms high in ctr. Come bkwd to place with 6 steps.

Leap dnwd again and go to ctr with 3 steps after the leap step. Hold pose at ctr with Hs high and outside leg extended bkwd making a nice line with upstretched arms. Return bkwd quickly to place when musicians resume the melody.

Chorus concludes the dance.

If it is done for exhibition this last chorus can be used to arrange cpls in semi-circle facing audience for a bow.

-presented by Grace West