

## BRIDGE OF AVIGNON (France)

**OPENING FORMATION:** Couples in a circle, side by side, all facing counterclockwise. The girl stands to the right of the boy, inside hands joined.

**WORDS (A):** "On the Bridge of Avignon  
They are dancing, they are dancing,  
On the Bridge of Avignon  
They are dancing in a ring."

**ACTION:** All skip counterclockwise, facing forward and singing the above words.

**WORDS (B):** "Gentlemen all do this way,  
Then they all do this way."

**ACTION:** Partners face each other, and with great mimicry make an elaborate bow. Then move one place to right and bow to the next partner. Keep this new partner for the next round of the dance. Note that the girls bow like men here. All skip forward again, singing the words marked (A).

Then sing the following:

**WORDS (C):** "Ladies all do this way,  
Then they all do this way."



**ACTION:** Partners face and curtsey, the boys holding their trousers out, pretending to be girls. Again, this is done with a great deal of exaggeration. As before, do it once with one partner, then move to right and repeat with new partner. Retain new partner as you skip forward and sing the words (A).

**WORDS (D):** "Soldiers all do this way, etc."

**ACTION:** Salute each other, then new partner.

**WORDS (E):** "Angels all do this way, etc."

**ACTION:** Angels either pray or fly.

**WORDS (F):** "Street boys all do this way, etc."

**ACTION:** Stick thumbs in ears and wiggle fingers as you stick tongue out. Or do a "pied de nez" (thumb noses at each other).

There is one additional repeat of music for teachers or dancers to improvise their own action.

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