

POP GOES THE WEASEL (America)

This tune is used for a great variety of activities by all age groups—for squares, couple dances, and play parties. Here are three basic versions.



COUPLE DANCE

OPENING FORMATION: Double circle, sets of two facing couples. Partners' inside hands joined, girl on boy's right.

All couples facing clockwise are #1, all facing counterclockwise #2.

All step forward four steps and back four, singing:

"'Round and 'round the cobbler's shop
The monkey chased the weasel."

Couples #1 and #2 join hands and walk once around to the left, singing:

"In and out and 'round about."

Singing "Pop Goes the Weasel!", Couple #1 pops under the arch formed by Couple #2 and faces a new couple (each time) for the next complete dance.



"THREE" DANCE

OPENING FORMATION: Sets of three, preferably one boy and two girls, inside hands joined; all sets facing counterclockwise.

All walk forward, singing:

"'Round and 'round the cobbler's shop
The monkey chased the weasel."

Girls (or outside dancers) join outside



hands for a circle of three and walk left around, singing:

"In and out and 'round about."

On the words, "Pop Goes the Weasel!", the center dancer is popped under the arch and on to the next couple for the next repetition.

SQUARE DANCE

OPENING FORMATION: Sets of four couples in a square, girls on boys' right, all facing center.

CALL: "The head couple, lead to the right,
And balance there so easy."

(Head couple turns to couple on its right and both couples "balance" by taking a short step forward and back, with a slight bow and curtsy.)

CALL: "Now join hands and circle left."
(Head couple and couple #2 join hands and circle left around.)

CALL: "Pop Goes the Weasel."

(Head couple pops under the arch and on to couple #3, where they repeat the entire figure—balance and circle, and under the arch.)

Head couple continues to couple #4 in like fashion.

When head couple returns to places, couple #2 leads off to its right and so on around the square, until each couple has completed a full set of figures.