

The Black Nag

(England)

Originally published in *The English Dancing Master* (1665-1716), The Black Nag was reconstructed and published by Cecil Sharp in *The Country Dance Book, Part 1* (1911). It is also included in John Fitzhugh Millar's *Elizabethan Country Dances* (1985). A summary of the research on The Black Nag is presented in *The Playford Ball, 103 Early English Country Dances*, by Kate Van Winkle Keller and Gennevieve Shimer (1990).

Music: *Country Dance Tunes*, collected and arranged by Cecil Sharp, Set IV, p. 2; 6/8 meter
English Country Dance Tunes, transcribed and edited by Peter Barnes, p.2.

Record: "By Popular Demand," CDS-6, 33 rpm; "World of Fun," WOF 6, 33 rpm; Folkraft 1174, 45 rpm;
"Playford Dances 4," 7EG 8666, EMI 45 rpm (out of print); "English Folk Dances," Folkraft LP-9.

Formation: Longways* for three couples.

Steps and Styling: Skip*, light running steps (2 per meas).

A Double: Three light springy steps and a close in a specified direction, as in "forward a Double."

Turn Single: Turn in a small circle with four light, springy steps (CW unless otherwise specified).

Arm R: Ptrs move fwd, hook R elbows and turn once around CW with six light springy steps (cts 1-6). Without changing step or rhythm release arm hold and move back into original position with two more steps (cts 7-8).

Arm L: Repeat action, but hook L elbow and turn CCW.

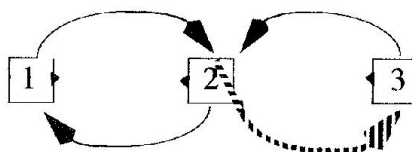
Siding: A movement of courtesy keeping eye contact with ptr. Moving in a CCW arc dance forward a double, exchanging places with partner. Retrace pattern, moving in a CW arc to return to original position.

Slip: Move sideward by springing to side on the leading ft and stepping on the trailing ft next to the leading ft (2 per meas).

Hey for Three: Three people in line formation; No. 1 facing Nos. 2 and 3. All moving at the same time, describe a Figure 8 pattern. All go around the Figure 8 in the same direction (follow the leader).

Dancer #1	Dancer #2	Dancer #3
Curve CW passing R shldr with #2	Curve CW passing R shldr with #1	Curve CCW
Dance through center	Curve CW around #1 original place	Continue curve CCW
Curve CCW	Continue curve CW	Dance through ctr passing behind #1
Curve CCW around #3 original place	Dance through (original place)	Curve CW around #1 original place

Continue moving in the Figure 8 to return to original places.



Steps are light and springy, posture erect, movements flowing. Make eye contact with other dancers whenever possible.

* Described in *Steps and Styling*, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
Chord(s)	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action, varies according to music.	
	I. <u>FORWARD A DOUBLE AND BACK; COUPLES SLIP</u>	
A 1-8	Joining inside hands, ptrs lead up a Double and fall back a Double. Repeat.	
B1 1-2	Cpl 1 take two hands and move up with four Slip steps.	
3-4	Cpl 2 repeat meas 1-2.	
5-6	Cpl 3 repeat meas 1-2.	
7-8	All Turn Single.	
B2 1-8	Repeat B1, meas 1-8, Slipping back to place in reverse order (Cpl 3 beginning).	
	II. <u>SIDING; CHANGE PLACES</u>	
A 1-8	Side with ptr twice.	
B1 1-2	M1 and W 3 change places with four Slip steps, leading with R shldr and passing back to back.	
3-4	W1 and M3 repeat meas 1-2.	
5-6	Cpl 2 repeat meas 1-2.	
7-8	All Turn Single.	
B2 1-8	Repeat B1, meas 1-8, returning to original places.	
	III. <u>ARMING; M HEY; W HEY</u>	
A 1-8	Ptrs Arm R, then Arm L.	
B1 1-8	M Hey for Three, skipping.	
B2 1-8	W Hey for Three, skipping. Note: Although not in Playford's instructions, in some areas it is traditional that M Turn Single on meas 7-8 as the W finish their Hey.	