

BLACKWATTLE REEL

Bush Dance descriptions © by Lance Green

Around The House and Mind the Dresser | Blackwattle Reel | Blaydon Races | Brown Jug Polka | Foula Reel

Around The House and Mind the Dresser

Formation: Sicilian Progressive

Author: Fay McAlinden, originally published in TSADV Dance Book No 1.

Music: 64 bar Irish jigs 6/8

Bars Description

- 4 **Circle** left -- (Join hands in a circle of 4 and take 8 **slip steps** to the left).
- 4 **Star** right hand-- (Keep travelling in the same direction for 8 steps).
- 4 **Circle right** -- (8 slip steps to the right).
- 4 **Star left** hand-- (Keep travelling the same way).
- 8 **Tops figure of eight** -- (Top couple go between other couple, lady going through before her partner. The lady goes behind her opposite lady, then between the couple again, behind the man and back to place. At the same time the top man does the same, going behind the opposite man then behind the opposite lady and back to place).
- 8 **Bottom couple** figure of eight -- (Same as the top couple).
- 4 **Ladies chain** half-way -- (Lady's chain to opposite man and stay in the ladies chain hold).
- 4 **Promenade** -- (Promenade to opposite place, men pass left shoulders, so that ladies are with opposite man in their original position).
- 4 **Ladies chain** half-way
- 4 **Promenade** -- (Now with partner and back to original place).
- 8 **Rights and lefts** -- (Finish back in original place).
- 2 **Advance** -- 4 steps.
- 2 **Couple 2** (facing anticlockwise) **Retire** for 4 steps, while **Couple 1** (who are facing clockwise) **turn single** in towards each other and finish facing anticlockwise, then take 4 steps fwd.
- 4 **Couple 2 Pass through** -- (8 steps fwd to meet a new Couple 1), while **Couple 1 cast out** (man by right shoulder, woman by left shoulder) around Couple 2, meet and holding inside hands, progress clockwise on to a new Couple 2.

64 Bars

Blackwattle Reel

English

Formation: Large single circle

Bars Description

- 4 Advance & retire -- (4 steps each way).
- 4 Advance & retire.
- 2 Right hand turn -- (Turn partner by the right hand).
- 2 Left hand turn -- (Turn corner by the left hand).
- 4 Advance & retire.

cont...

- 4 Do-si-do right -- (Do-si-do with partner).
- 4 Do-si-do left -- (Do-si-do left shoulders with partner).
- 2 Step & Honour -- (Face partner, each person steps to their right and bows or curtsies to partner).
- 2 Walk on -- (Each person walks 4 small steps to meet their new partner).
- 4 Swing -- (Swing new partner using a longarm hold and finish ready to start again).
- 32 Bars 6/8 or Polka or Reel + 4 Bars Introduction.

Variations: 1. In the second 8 bars take 4 bars each for the turns and have no advance & retire.
2. Instead of the third advance & retire, repeat the RH & LH turns.

Tunes: Any of 6/8, Polka or Reel

Source: Six New Dances, published by Bush Music Club 1979.

Notes : This dance was written by Amnon & Sheryn Doernberg for the Bush Music Club's Silver Jubilee in 1979.

It has been commonly danced in Canberra during the 1980s with the variation 1. given above, not the original instructions.

Blaydon Races

Formation: Large single circle.

Bars Description

- 4 Advance & retire -- (4 steps each way).
- 4 Advance & retire.
- 4 Chassez -- (2 Chassez steps to the centre, in a ballroom hold then 2 steps back).
- 4 Chassez.
- 8 Promenade -- (All promenade anticlockwise for 16 steps. Then release the promenade hold and women stop).
- 2 Men on -- (Men move forward to a new partner).
- 6 Swing new partner -- (Swing new partner using a longarm hold and finish in circle, with woman on the right of her new partner ready to start again).
- 32 Bars 6/8 or Polka or Reel + 4 Bars Introduction.

Variation: Promenade for 6 bars, Men promenade onto new partner in 2 bars, Set once to new partner and then swing.

Tunes : Blaydon Races, Manchester Galop, Little Brown Jug.

Source: Dances in Sydney 1982-1984 and Canberra in 1985-1986.

Notes : The variation given is the original version I danced but the instructions are for the version which is popular in Canberra.

Brown Jug Polka aka Heel & Toe Polka

Formation: Circle of Couples. **Start:** Ballroom hold with men facing anticlockwise

Bars Description

- 2 Heel & Toe-- (Heel and toe twice, man starting with left foot and woman with the right foot).
- 2 Sideways -- (4 slip steps to the mans left).
- 2 Heel and toe -- (Back the other way. Man starts right foot and lady left but you keep the same hold as in the first heel and toe).