

CICERENNELLA (Italian)

This is probably the best-known of all tarantellas, a group of dances characterized by the fast tempo and exhausting steps -- in old legend, supposedly caused by the poisonous bite of the tarantula. This is a dance for two couples; couples face each other, men on same side.

| <u>FIGURE</u> | <u>COUNTS</u> | <u>STEPS</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| I (Basic) | 1-4 | Step on R and swing L across R (Hands over head and snap fingers) Step on L and swing R across L (Hands over head and snap fingers) |
| | 5-8 | "Scissor-kick": step R and kick L, step L and kick R, step R and kick L, step L and kick R -- meanwhile, slapping hands together on each beat as if striking a tambourine |
| | 9-32 | Repeat 1-8, three times |
| II (Forward and Back) | 1-4 | Four steps toward partner until R shoulders together; clap hands in front on 4th beat |
| | 5-8 | Four steps back and clap hands behind back on 4th beat |
| | 9-16 | Repeat 1-8, Fig. II |
| | 17-32 | Repeat 1-16, Fig. II, except when going forward, partners meet with L shoulders together |
| III (Elbow Swing) | 1-8 | M and W on L to center and do R elbow swing |
| | 9-16 | M and W on R to center and do R elbow swing |
| | 17-24 | M and W on L to center and do L elbow swing |
| | 25-32 | M and W on R to center and do L elbow swing |

continued...

(Cicerennella continued)

| <u>FIGURE</u> | <u>COUNTS</u> | <u>STEPS</u> |
|--|---------------|--|
| IV (Do-se-do) | 1-8 | M and W on L do R-shoulder do-se-do (hands above head and snap fingers) |
| | 9-16 | M and W on R do R-shoulder do-se-do |
| | 17-24 | M and W on L do L-shoulder do-se-do |
| | 25-32 | M and W on R do L-shoulder do-se-do |
| (NOTE: In Fig. III and IV, the couple not doing figure in center does the basic step.) | | |
| V (Circle) | 1-16 | Everyone to center (R shoulders in) and circle CW, with hands above heads and snapping fingers |
| | 17-32 | Turn and circle CCW |
| VI (Star) | 1-16 | R-hand star and circle CW (wave free hand and snap fingers) |
| | 17-32 | L-hand star and circle CCW to place |