

FJÄSKERN ("Hurry-Scurry")
(Sweden)

Fjäskern (FYESS-kehrn), a circle mixer folkdance from southern Sweden, is simple enough for the first number at an initial session of beginners, yet exciting enough to provide hilarious fun for even the most calloused old-timers. Reason: the music accelerates from almost ridiculously slow to nearly (but not quite) impossibly fast. Thus the choice of the English title "Hurry-Scurry".

Source: As learned and danced in Sweden by Gordon E. Tracie, and taught at Skandia Folkdance Club, Seattle.

Described in "Samkväms & Gillesdanser", published by Svenska Ungdomsringen för Bygdekultur, Stockholm.

Music: Record: Aqua VIKING 200.

Formation: Cpls in circle, M on inside, W on outside, beg facing LOD. Open hand pos, joined at shoulder level. Free hands always on hips, Swedish style (fingers fwd, thumb back).

Steps: Walking, Running, and Kicking steps. Ftwrk is the same for M and W. Thruout entire dance there is a simple L-R alternation of the ft without stop.

Styling: Sprightly and with humor.

Measures
(4/4)

Pattern

I. CIRCLE FWD AND BACK

1-4 Inside hands joined, beg on L ft, cpls move fwd in LOD 16 steps.*

1-4 Turning around individually, twd ptr, other hands are joined, and cpls move back in opp direction in similar manner with 16 steps.

II. KICK AND EXCHANGE PLACES

5 Facing ptr squarely, M on inside, W on outside of circle, both hands on own hips, cpls dance 4 kicking steps, beg with wt on L ft (kicking out R ft).

6 With handclap on 1st beat, ptrs change places with 4 running steps, moving about CW while facing each other (as if hands were joined).

7-8 Repeat action of meas 5-6 (Fig II) to return to own place.

5-8 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 5-8.

Repeat entire dance from the beg.

Ptr change is effected as sequence begins with Fig I. Simplest way is for M to move fwd to next W, inasmuch as being on inside of circle, M has shorter distance to go. In Scandinavia, however, W often moves fwd to next M.

*For the 1st two sequences, walking steps will be used during Fig I, succeeding sequences will be running steps.

Presented by Gordon E. Tracie