

## Kynkkaliepakko

(Finland)

Kynkkaliepakko is a popular folk dance in Sano, central section of Finland, and derives its name from the fact that the title means literally "hooking arms" which is a characteristic feature of Figures I and II. It is interesting to note the similarity between Kynkkaliepakko and the Virginia Reel, a well-known American folk dance in longways formation, and to realize that the dances of our pioneers in this country were evolved from those of other and older countries.

Kynkkaliepakko is a dance in two-part form in which each couple, in turn, progresses up the set to execute the steps analyzed in Figure II for the head couple. The style throughout is in keeping with the brisk tempo established by the music.

**Formation:** A longways set of four couples, partners approximately four feet apart and facing each other. The dance is described for the first couple which stand at the head of the double line.

### Figure I

- 1-4 Partners facing with both hands joined and arms extended sideward at shoulder level (M beginning R, W L), Couple 1 dances 6 sliding steps to foot of set. 3 stamps in place (M R,L,R,L).  
Hold.
- 5-8 Repeat, returning to head of set (M begins L, W R). W does not take weight on last stamp, leaving R foot free to begin Figure II.

### Figure II

A

- 1-4 Beginning R and keeping free hand on hip throughout, M 1 and W 1 arm R with each other making a turn and a half CW with 8 walking steps,
- 5-6 M 1 arms L with W 2 WHILE W 1 arms L with M 2 with 4 walking steps
- 7-8 M 1 arms R with W 1 with 4 walking steps.
- 9-16 M 1 and W 1 continue down the line alternately arming L with each successive couple and R with each other with 4 walking steps for each arming.

B

- 1-4 Retaining R arms, M 1 and W 1 begin R to turn CW twice with 8 skip steps.
- 5-6 M 1 arms L with W 2 WHILE W 1 arms L with M 4 with 4 skip steps.
- 7-8 M 1 and W 1 arm R at center of set with 4 skip steps.
- 9-10 M 1 arms L with W 3 WHILE W 1 arms L with M 3 with 4 skip steps.
- 11-12 M 1 and W 1 arm R at center of set with 4 skip steps.
- 13-14 M 1 arms L with W 4 WHILE W 1 arms L with M 2 with 4 skip steps.
- 15-16 M 1 and W 1 arm R, turning CW and progressing toward foot of set. to finish in original places of Couple 4, with 4 skip steps.

As Couple 1 retires to foot of set all other couples move toward head of the set one place so that Couple 2 becomes the head couple. Entire dance is repeated three times with Couples 2, 3 and 4 in turn serving as head couple.

**Note:** Satisfactory performance of Kynkkaliepakko depends upon the exactness of phrasing throughout the arming which is only possible if the longways set remains compact, and if all dancers step forward to

meet the head couple for each left arming. In other words, the execution of each arming must coincide exactly with the proper phrase of music so that each new arming movement begins on the first beat of the measure indicated.