

Northern European Folk Dances

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Selected for the 1977 Lighted Lantern Folk Dance Camp, July 24-30 1977.

My father who has been dancing since the 1920s recently gave me his collection of 10" 78's, some of them museum pieces with no lead-in groove! So I've decided to share with you some of these gems which delighted me years ago. Mixed in with them are some Bavarian dances from a planned folk-fest in Burghausen at which about 1% were not natives. Finally, I've been teaching Scottish Country Dancing for the last few years so I'll present a few of the more intricate of these for you.

1. A TRIP TO BAVARIA (from J. Lomath, 1976)  
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE

- Fig 1. The Trip (For the trip there are two kinds of dancers: Insiders, pos 2 & 3, and Outsiders, pos 1 & 4)
- 1-2 Outsiders turn partner  $\frac{1}{2}$ , while Insiders dance  $\frac{1}{2}$  wheel. All use R hands. *"R, L, R, L"*
  - 3-4 Now on the sides, each dancer changes places with the person (same sex) on the nearest corner using L hands. Former Outsiders are now Insiders and v.v. *"Left on the sides"*
  - 5-16 Repeat bars 1-4 three more times ending in original places.

Fig 2. The Progression

- 17-18 Cpls 1 & 2 face diagonally, set (pas-de-basque)
- 19-20 Cpl 1: 2 sk-ch-st to pos 2, improper (w prec. m)  
Cpl 2: 2 sk-ch-st to pos 1. *"Track"*
- 21-22 Cpls 1 & 3 set diagonally (to same sex)
- 23-24 Cpl 1: 2 sk-ch-st to pos 3, proper (w prec. m)  
Cpl 3: 2 sk-ch-st to pos 1.
- 25-28 Cpls 1 & 4 repeat bars 17-20. All have moved up one place but Cpl 1 is improper, at the bottom of the set.
- 29-32 Join hands on the sides, advance with 2 sk-ch-st & retire with 2 sk-ch-st, except for Cpl 1, who advance with 1 sk-ch-st and turn with 1 pas-de-basque then retire with their lines.

The dance is repeated 3 more times.

2. THE REEL OF THE 51st DIVISION (Scottish)

TUNE The Drunken Piper any good pipe tune *or 4/4 TIME 4/4*  
This is a longways reel-time dance for 3 couples. A new top couple begins on every 3rd repetition.

- BAR 1-8 1st couple set to each other, and then cast off two places on their own sides of the dance. They meet below 3rd couple, and 1st man leads his partner up the middle to place her facing her 1st corner, he turning to face his 1st corner.
- 9-12 1st couple set to 1st corners, pas de basque. They turn corner joining right hands—2 skip change of step—and, still holding right hand of 1st corners, give left hands to partner, making a diagonal line across the dance. *"1st corner"*



- 18-14 All set in line. pas de basque. *"Fig 2"*
- 15-16 1st couple, dropping hand, of 1st corners, turn each other with left hands to face 2nd corners. 2 skip change of step. *"2nd corner"*

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17-24 They repeat all this with 2nd corner, but, instead of turning each other on the last two steps, they cross over to own side one place down. *"Fig 2"*

25-82 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples make a circle, and dance 8 slip steps round to the left and 8 back again, finishing on their own sides of dance one place down. *"Circle"*

1st couple repeat dance with next 2 couples.

NOTE

This dance was composed in a P.O.W. Camp in Germany, by two Highland Officers of the 51st (Highland) Division, which was captured in 1940 at St. Valery.

3. THE MACHINE WITHOUT HORSES

TUNE Original SCOTTISH or 4 TIME 6/8  
This is a longways jig-time dance for 3 couples. A new top couple begins on every 3rd repetition.

- BAR 1-4 1st couple set to each other, then cast off one place on their own sides of the dance.
- 5-8 1st and 3rd couples, giving right hand across to make a wheel, dance once round with 4 skip change of step. *"Back wheel"*
- 9-12 1st couple set to each other again, then cast up one into original places.
- 13-16 1st and 2nd couples, giving left hands to make a wheel, dance once right round. All are now back in original places. *"Front wheel"*
- 17-24 1st couple, followed by 2nd couple, lead down the middle through 3rd couple, and cast up to the top. They then cast off into 2nd place, 2nd couple dancing up into top place. 8 skip change of step. *"Inspection"*



- 25-82 1st and 2nd couples dance rights and lefts across the dance and back again.
- 1st couple repeat dance with next 2 couples.

A. THE DASHING WHITE SERGEANT

TUNE Original SCOTTISH TIME 4/4  
This is a circle reel-time dance. Dancers stand in a circle round the room in 3s. A man between 2 ladies faces a lady between 2 men. The man between 2 ladies moves clockwise and the other three counter-clockwise.



- BAR 1-8 All six dancers make a circle and dance 8 slip steps round to the left and 8 back again. *"Circle"*
- 9-16 The centre dancer turns to right hand partner. They set to each other and turn with 2 hands, pas de basque. Centre dancer turns and does the same with left hand partner, and finishes facing right hand partner again. *"Set right"*
- 17-24 They dance the reel of three, centre dancer beginning the reel by giving left shoulder to right hand partner. 8 skip change of step. They finish facing their opposite & step left. *"Last"*
- 25-82 All advance and retire then pass on to meet the next three coming towards them, passing right shoulder with the person opposite to them. *"Back"*

The dance is repeated as many times as you will.