

"Tampet" is probably a variant of several contra dances of the past century. North German in origin, it received much wider distribution and is a party favorite.

FORMATION: Rows of two couples each, facing.

ACTION:

PART I: All join hands and, beginning L foot, circle 16 steps to the L and 16 back to the R.

PART II: Partners join inside hands shoulder high. Couples change sides within own row with 4 side gallop steps. Follow through with pointing R over L, then L over R when moving toward the L. Reverse feet when to the R. In many versions of this dance the original R hand couple crosses in front first. In North Germany, the L hand couple crosses in front first. Repeat this gallop step back to place, the "other" couple going in front this time. Repeat whole figure.

PART III: Center 4 dancers form R hand star, or mill, go 16 steps around, reverse the mill and back to the R 16. At the same time the outside couples join in a 2 hand circle, 16 to the L and 16 to the R.

PART IV: All join hands in line of 4. 4 steps forward, 4 steps back, forward and pass right shoulders and on to the next row (8 steps).

