

TANT' HESSIE
(South African)

Record: Folkraft 006x45

Translation: "Aunt Esther's White Horse."

Formation: Partners, double circle, with partners facing and slightly apart, men with backs to center.

Meter: 4/4

Meas.

PART I

- 1 Move forward toward partner with 4 strutting steps, beginning L, until right shoulders are together and all dancers are forming a single circle.
- 2 Then take 4 strutting steps backward to place.
- 3-4 Repeat Part I meeting with left shoulders.

PART II

- 5-6 Move forward toward partner, passing right shoulders, and walk around partner back-to-back, and backward to place in 8 walking steps (this is called "do-si-do").
- 7-8 Do a do-si-do passing left shoulders in 8 steps.

PART III

- (9-12) Extend both arms and catch hold of partner's arm just above the elbows, Turn CW doing a buzz-step swing for 16 steps, pivoting on R and pushing with L ending facing partner as at beginning of dance. (This swing can be done in shoulder-waist position, or in closed position modified with man's left and lady's right arm in an elbow grip.)

The dance is then repeated by moving diagonally forward toward the person to your left for your next partner.

Note: There are various ways of styling this dance. I suggest that the arms be kept straight and at the sides through the first two parts and that you snap your fingers with the music. Partners look flirtatiously at each other throughout the dance, and at the beginning of the last part fling the arms out and shout "Hey" before the buzz-step swing. Or, the dancers can sing Tra-la-la in Part II, and Oompah Oompah Oompha-pah in Part III. This dance has also been described as depicting the age-old story--boy meets girl (Part I, big smiles), boy loses girl (Part II, no smiles), boy gets girl (Part III, Hey!)