

Troika

Records: Kismet 104; Methodist World of Fun 105; Folk Dancer 1059.

Heaven only knows this is described in enough places already; the snapper is: nearly all the Russian and Ukrainian dances that I attend in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have a different version than the published one. The figures and sequence are the same, but there is a considerable difference in the steps. As is usual in such cases they all inform me "It was always done that way." Who is right? I'd hate to say . . . but the version given here is much more interesting than the other published ones.

Formation. Trios in a big circle, all facing counterclockwise around the room. The usual combination is one man between two girls; however if there are not enough girls to go around the reverse combination is acceptable.

(1)

- A. All starting with the right foot, take four light running steps forward Bar 1
- B. Hop on the left foot, swinging the right foot forward in front of the left. Hop on the left again, swing the right to the side. Hop on the left once more, bringing the right up beside the left. Pause Bar 2
- Repeat all of the above Bars 3-4

(2)

- A. The man raises both partners arms to form two arches; the right hand girl with eight running steps passes under the arch formed by the left hand girl, the man turning under his own arm so that all face front again Bars 5-6
- B. The left hand girl runs under the arch of the right hand girl Bars 7-8

Note: this "under the arch" figure is done in some groups with six running steps instead of eight; the four counts left over being used for the action described in B of (1) above.

(3)

- A. Joining hands in a circle of three, they circle to the left with 12 running steps, scuffing the feet forward (some places substitute a step-hop). Stamp three times and pause. Bars 9-12
- B. Repeat, circling to the right Bars 12-16

Note: In many places where the orchestra makes a practice of playing a medley of Russian folk dances, the dance is done by two couples joining up to make a foursome instead of a trio. In this case in (2) of the description above the right hand couple goes under the arch formed by the left hand man and his girl; the left hand couple then goes under the arch of the right hand couple.