The Crested Hen

(Denmark)

The Crested Hen is probably the most popular and widely known fold dance in Denmark. It is characterized by a brisk, vigorous style in executing the basic step-hop used throughout for this relatively simple two-part dance.

This delightful dance derives its title from the interplay of the partici-pants, in figure II when each of the women, in turn, dancing on either side of a man in a set of three dancers endeavors to snatch his red "stocking cap" from his head. If she is successful, she dons it, thus becoming a "crested hen." Grown-up Danish folk dancers enjoy this bit of pantomime and enter it whole-hartedly.

Formation: Any number of sets of three dancers, each set comrpises of a M and 2 W, one W on either side of the M. Each group of three joins hands to form a small single circle. In the analysis of Figure II of this dance, the W on the M's L will be referred to as the L W, the W on the M's R will be referred to as the R W.

Part I

1-8   Beginning with a stamp on the L foot and leaning strongly away from each other by pulling upon joined hands with arms extended, dance 8 step-hops around cricle in a clockwise direction. Count is 1,2,1,2, etc.

1 - 1   Dancers spring into the air, make a half-turn to R, and land on both feet facing counterclockwise.

2   Hop L

2-8   Continue CCW around circle with 7 step-hops beginning R. Count is 1,2,1,2, etc.
On the last step-hop, the two Women release joined hands, placing them on their hips, and fall back to positions on either side of the M to form a straight line.

Part II

9-12   Beginning L, L W dances under the arch formed by the joined hands of Man and R W while M and R W dance in place with 4 step-hops.

13-16   M then follows the L W under the arch and turns under his own arm while R W dances in place and L W dances back to original open position on L of M with 4 step-hops. 1,2,etc.

9-16   Repeat all with R W beginning L, dancing under arch formed by joined hands of M and L W, to repeat movements as analyzed in Meas. 9-16.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.