

FRENCH GARLAND DANCE

Source: French girls at Sidmouth 1977.

Garlands: large garlands about half the height of the dancers.

Music: polka rhythm, speed about 100 beats per minute, A&B 16 bars long.

Step: 123hop, but irregular rhythm, "a'12-3, hop" ie polka rhythm. On the hop point toe downwards - this helps drive foot down on the first beat. A lot of elevation on the hop - kicks the skirt up.

Once to Self: single file at edge of dance area, 8 dancers.

Entry: leading dancer moves off and rest join in in turn when sufficient gap opened up in front. Not quite one in on each bar of step.

A1 8 double steps coming on, followed by 8 double steps on spot facing up in single file, without moving garlands. Number dancers 1 to 8 from front

B1 "Sways" - 16 sways, one to a bar, while stepping in single file on spot. No.1 sways to left first and No.2 to right etc in alternate directions. The garland is swung over till the grips are horizontal, the upper hand at eye level, the lower at just below the waist. The swing reaches the lowest point on the first beat of the step.



A2 "Cast" - go round, odds to left, evens to right. The two lines meet after 6 double steps and go through each other, the odds in front, alternately, shading the shoulders to pass, and come up other side on next 6 double steps. End facing up for 4 double steps in two lines with the two at the bottom positioned inward as shown.

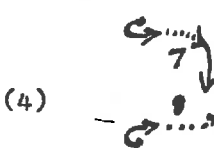
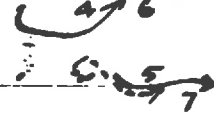
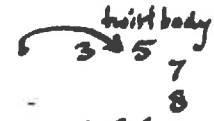


B2 "Weave" - lines, led by top pair, cast out and weave through line, cross back and form up in column after 12 double steps, then 4 double steps facing in to opposite. Dancers mark time on spot till indicated that they move off.

Bars 1-2: No.1 (&2) turn out and moves between 3&5 (4&6) twisting body to right (left) to pass garland between the others.

Bars 3-4: No.1 (2) continues through 5&7(6&8) and on the first beat No.3(4) starts to move off, turning out to follow No.1(2).

Bars 5-6: No.1 (2) passes behind 7 (8) and starts to pass 2 by the left shoulder at the end of bar 6. 3 (4) follows and 5 (6) moves off at the start of bar 5, turning in to follow 3 (4)



French Garland 2.

the lines of 3 - 1&3&5 (2&4&6) are now quite close behind each other. The bottom pair do not move yet.

Bars 7-10: The lines of 3 continue round to other side of set and end facing up. The bottom pair start to change sides in bar 9, facing up throughout, moving sideways, 7 passing in front of 8.

Bars 11-16: the bottom pair complete their change by end of bar 12, ending behind their column, not inward as at end of A2. All step out phrase facing up, till end of bar 12, then in till end of bar 16.

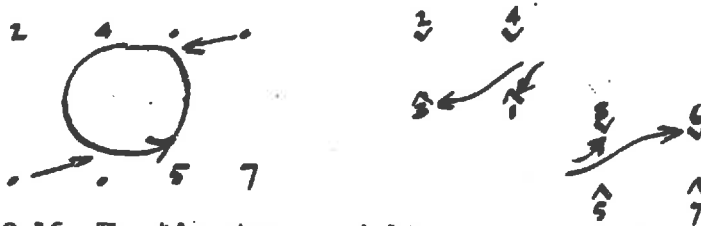
A3 "Corners" - 1&3, 6&8 circle round anticlockwise to face opposite pairs and star to right and left.

Bars 1-2: Nos. 3 & 6 move to their right across in front of the dancers to their right. Inactive dancers stand still in this figure.



Bars 3-6: 1, 3, 6, 8 circle half way round, evenly spaced, to end facing 4, 2, 5, 7 respectively.

Bars 7-8: 2 double steps on spot facing for active dancers as indicated. Others turn ready for stars but do not step.



Bars 9-16: The 4's star right, going round clockwise, knuckles up to a foot out of the centre. Go round about 1 1/2 turns in 8 double steps.

B3 Bars 1-8: turn out and star back, left knuckle into middle and going anticlockwise.

Bars 9-16: turn out and star right a second time for 8 double steps.

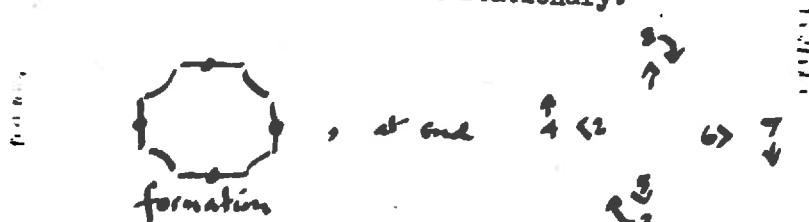
A4 The dancers break from the stars led by Nos. 1 & 5. No. 1 can lead off immediately, but the second star rotates for two more bars before No. 5 leads off. Move off into one large circle clockwise, twice round. 8 double steps to a circuit.



B4 Alternate dancers, 1, 6, 5, 2, form a square ^{facing out} in the centre and the other four 8, 7, 3, 4 continue to circle twice round the outside clockwise in the same size circle. The 4 ^{walk} into the centre till their knuckles touch ^{then clockwise to face out} then take hold in their left hand the right handle of their left hand neighbour's garland together with their own left hand handle. Let go the right hand end.

French Garland 3.

They bring the pair of ends together in front of their body, then separate their hands while moving out *forwards* from the centre, till they are standing with their arms outstretched horizontally as wide as possible, the garlands now being stretched between the dancers to form arches that the others can pass through. The centre four then remain stationary.



A5 Opposite pairs from the outside circle weave through the arches while the other pair continue to circle.

- Bars 1-4 3 & 8 go through
- Bars 5-8 4 & 7 go through
- Bars 9-12 3 & 8 go through again
- Bars 13-16 4 & 7 go through again.

Each dancer enters and exits through the same garlands each time. The pair pass face to face in the centre. While the two go through the arches, the other two make a half circuit round the outside so that the four are always in order in the outer circle.



B5 At the start a woman slips into the centre of the set. The inner four back ^{slowly} into the middle till shoulder to shoulder while bringing their hands together in front (Bars 1-4). They change the garland ends to get their own garland back, passing the ends to their left. All 4 turn clockwise to face the centre (Bars 5-6). In turn they give the extra woman the garland end from their right hand, which she receives into her right, and keep the other end in their left and stand facing in (bars 7-10). They remain stationary to end of phrase.

~~The other four circle round the inner four two complete circuits clockwise. A man slips into the centre to stand beside the woman at the very end, from the back.~~



French Garland 4.

A6 The outer four come in to form a small circle with the rest, entering between the dancers where they went under in A5 which makes it the same order as in the circle in A4. They slot in with right shoulders into the middle and hand their right hand end of garland to the man in turn. He stands on the right side of the woman and takes the ends into his left hand. The same four transfer the other garland end into their right hand while turning to face out.

All raise the garlands high with the ends in front of their faces and stand there till the end of the phrase.



B6 All lower garlands and face clockwise around the set and taking back the other end of their garland so that each dancer has their own again. Leave the couple in the middle standing side by side.

Move off, the first 6 bars round in a circle, then No.1 breaks away and leads the line in a serpentine track.



Each loop of the serpentine takes 8 bars of double step. When No.1 is going round the circle, the garlands are held out in front at full stretch. In the turns to the left all follow No.1 and swing the garland over to the right as described in B1 but held for the 8 bars. For turns to the right swing to left etc.