

IRISH NUMMERS DANCE

The Esperance Morris Book 1 p.4 refers to stick dances collected from 2 Irishmen at Fishguard, South Wales, who had a side there before WW1. It was danced in conjunction with a nummers play. The dance is for 12 but can be performed by 8.

FIRST DANCE

Music: jigs.

Stick: about 15 in long, flat like a long sword and not round, and hit flat to flat.

The handle end is shaped and has a ribbon or tassel attached. The rest position is with the stick sloped across the right shoulder.

Opening:

Once to Yourself - no jump to start dance. (No jumps throughout the dance)

Stepping on Spot - facing partner, start left foot, 8 bars of stepping (1 2 3 hop).

Repetitive Body of Dance: danced Progressively in units of 4.

A. Step, Hit and Change.

Bar 1: With stick on shoulder facing opposite, 1 bar of morris step, starting left foot.

Bar 2: ditto starting right foot.

Bar 3: all dancers stand still in bars 3 - 6. Clash using flat of stick for sound, at level of top of head for visibility.

First beat - partners hit from left to right, sticks sloping up to left, so that stick moves away from body during the action.

Middle beat - partners hit from right to left with stick sloped to right.

Bar 4: turn to face neighbour along the side of the set in the unit of 4 currently dancing and hit as in bar 3. As progression is like a Country Dance, the neighbour is always on the same side till the end of the set is reached.

Bar 5: partners hit left to right as first beat of bar 3 only.

Bar 6: diagonal corners in the 4's hit right to left, as middle beat of bar 3. First corner hits over top of second corner.

Bars 7-8: in the 4's, corners cross with 2 morris double steps, second corner first.

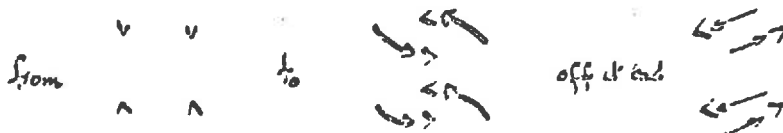
B. Repeat.

Repeat all A to place but now the original second corner hits over the first in bar 6 and the original first corner crosses first in bars 7-8.

hits			x x	x x	x	x		
target			opposite	neighbour	opposite	corner		
rhythm	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪	♪♪♪
feet	double	double	stationary	.....	.....	.....	double	double
track	on spot	.....	turn	turn	.....	.....	cross diagonal	.....

C. Step 4 in line.

Dancers move into a line of 4 across the set facing alternate directions, and step on the spot, starting the move into the next part of the dance in the last bar.



D. Progression.

Each person follows a different track - so from the end of section C,

Beginning

Middle

Finish



As separate tracks



1&3 turn to their left to face back then cross sides with each other to a figure 8, crossing back and progressing on the outside. 2&4 make complete circle to left then while 2 does another circle left 4 does a circle right and both progress by coming through the middle

Dance continues in Country Dance fashion as long as desired or till all back to start. The neutral pairs at the ends of the sets in alternate repeats of the repetitive sequence remain static and stationary for the 32 bars

Finish of Dance:

Stepping on spot for 8 bars of double step, facing partner as in the opening.

SECOND DANCE

Music: jigs.

Once to Yourself: a chord.

Repetitive Body of Dance: danced progressively in units of 4

A. Sidestep, Hit and Cross.

Partners face through bars 1-4.

Bars 1-2: Neighbours change places with sidestep. This is equivalent to the Irish step called "a seven" meaning 7 movements. The first step, assuming moving to the right, is to put the left foot behind the right, right to right side, left behind etc. This is the Irish equivalent to a morris long open sidestep to the right.

(hop on r) / 1 r 1 / 1 r 1 - /



Second pair move up between the first. 1&2 move to their left, 2&3 to their right.

Bars 3-4: Step on spot - the Irish step called "two threes". It is a polka step with the first step behind the supporting foot rather than in front.

eg / r 1 r . - / 1 r 1 - /

The stepping behind in sidestep and ordinary polka is characteristic of Southern England as well



Bars 5-6: Hit partner's and neighbour's sticks as in First Dance bars 3-4. Stand still.

Bar 7 : Diagonals cross with two plain steps.

Bar 8 : face opposite and hit twice, right to left, then left to right.



B. Repeat.

Repeat all of A to place.

C. Step in line and back.

Bars 1-4: like A bars 1-4 but only into line, not to other's place, and the second pair turn to face up the set.



Bars 5-8: repeat to place.

D. Progression.

Pairs face up and down the sides of the set. Step and change places for the progression.



PROCESSIONALS - walking.

OH - In 2 files: at dance spot do several outside casts, and facing out, not up and bow to the audience.

OFF - 8 bars of stepping facing opposite then an outside cast from the top and lead off up the middle