

RUSSIAN RIBBON DANCE

Source : Russian team at Sidmouth International Folk Festival - as filmed.

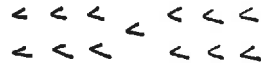
Team : 13 in 6 pairs and one supernumerary

Entry : walk on in pairs with extra dancer in centre.

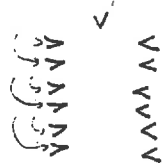
slow walk step, l r l swing free foot forward,

r l r swing free foot forward etc. ("a step")

Pairs walk linked inside arms.



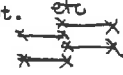



1. walk a complete circle. End with the extra dancer in the centre at the back. The pairs turn as couples to face across forming two lines facing



2. Extra dancer joins back of evens line (left in the drawing) Lines cross over, passing left shoulders, and turn to face up, on 4 "steps" (do not cross back), then "step" on spot 123- four times.
3. One dancer in each original pair, left hand column in entry, inside dancer in circle or 1,4,5,8, etc in column, has ribbon wound around waist, perhaps 12ft+ long. The ribbons are alternately red and green, so 1,5,9 are red, 4,8,12 green. The neighbour, the other dancer of the pair at entry, takes one end of the ribbon, and the one with it wrapped round unwinds it by crossing the set, turning as they go. The step used by all the dancers for this is a rocking step, left foot forward, right foot behind. The ones staying put, face forward throughout, one hand on hip and the other holding the ribbon end at waist level. The one unwinding has both hands on waist above the ribbon, and makes a quarter turn for each rock (2 steps) and takes 24 rocks to cross the set, 6 complete rotations (determines length of the ribbon). End all facing up, each holding an end of ribbon.
4. Up and Down. Alternate ends down down on one knee, Nos 2,3,6,7 etc. The ones standing hold their ribbon end in inside hand above their heads and dance 4 rocks on the spot, then they drop and the other end rises and rocks etc. This is repeated 3 more times, 32 rocks in all
5. Slow Roll. Walking step. Top pair back under down the middle and the rest follow in turn, each pair coming in every two steps, moving up to the front before backing under, taking 8 steps to complete going through. Go completely round 3 and a bit times, 48 steps in all. The spare dancer gives no.1 another ribbon of a third colour when they reach the back, and then feeds this so that it winds loosely over the roll, while moving slowly across the set so that it forms a spiral. Reverse the direction of walking to roll other way and the extra dancer winds in the slack on the extra ribbon. End up in starting place, all hold ribbons up high and mark time for 8 beats.
6. Up and Down with turns. Rather as fig 4, but the standing dancers do a complete turn clockwise on the spot on 4 rocks. Each dancer is up 4 times and down 4 times. 32 rocks in all.

Russian Ribbon

7. Form a star. The back pair lead their files up their left hand side, as seen facing up, no.12 leading them up under the ribbons and no.11 up outside. Those going under, either forward or backward, duck down. The original files of course back down so that the set ends reversed, but the ends moved in to form a circle. It takes 8 walk steps for the bottom to reach the top, and 16 steps in to complete the move.
All mark time 16 steps on the spot facing into the centre, ribbons held at waist level. 
 8. Star, all face clockwise and go round with 6 of the 123 swing "steps", turn in and come back to initial position.
 9. Continue to hold the star, but face alternate ways, no.1 clockwise, no.2 anti etc. Slide sideways with the rocking step, all to left first so that those facing clockwise move out from the centre and the others move in. Then all move to right so that the positions are reversed(not back into one circle). Repeat again so that end with clockwise facing dancers on an inner circle and the others outside. 8 rocks each way, 32 in all.
 10. Dip and Dive in direction facing. Inner ring go under first. Hold ribbon in both hands and raise above head in going over, paths necessarily weave in and out. "step", 123 swing, used, one such "step" per passing. 6 passes, turn in and return on the same path to place. Both hands very low in going under.
 11. All do 2 rock turns clockwise on the spot, all starting facing to the right around the circle, 8 rocks in all.
 12. Reverse of 7 but not quite the same path to unwind. No.12 leads the evens back down under the ribbons, but no.1 leads the odds up. 8 steps for ends to get there, 16 steps in all to get straight, end in column facing up, hands holding ribbons up high. 
 13. Lines (pairs) move sideways, front pair to their right, and rest alternately till the ends are in one line, 6 rock steps into line and 2 on the spot. etc. Rock steps back to place again. 
 14. The three pairs with the green ribbons, lower their ribbons to waist level and face across the set. The pairs with the red ribbons raise them high and move around outside the others, clockwise, with 6 rock steps, done step forward and step to close. Move round 90° so that facing up and down at right angles, lower ribbons to form a grid. 6 rocks on the spot. 
 15. The set rotates anticlock, going round 3/4 of circle with 16 slip steps and repeat back to place.
 16. All move into centre with 6 rock steps, rolling up ribbons as go, 6 rocks on spot.
 17. All turn to face up in a square and hold up a scarf, hidden by the extra dancer beforehand, all on one knee except the back row, scarf at 45° slope. Music stops.
- EXIT - all stand up, 1/2 turn to left, form a block 3 x 4 under the scarf and "step" off.