

GARLAND & CLOG DANCES

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1. PERTH GARLAND DANCE

- Source** : film of Fair Maids of Perth, at Adelaide 1983, danced for eight and then as taught with only four dancers.
- Step** : skip change step rather than a polka.
- Set** : four dancers all facing up, each with a U shaped garland.

ORDER OF MOVEMENTS FOR FOUR DANCERS

1. Four bars facing up and moving forward, two bars sidestep to change sides still facing up, one bar on spot, and one bar to turn out and face down. Four bars facing down and moving down, two bars sidestep to change back to starting side still facing down, and two bars to turn out, full or half turn, to end with the odds facing up and the evens facing down. The original odd side pass in front both times. 16 bars in all.
2. Dancers move sideways into a single line down the centre line of the set back to back with their opposite, odds facing up, evens down, in one bar. The back to back pairs rotate on the spot clockwise, getting half way round in four bars, carrying on for two more bars and moving out to opposite's place by the end. All face up momentarily.
Evens, on the odd side, turn clockwise to face down and the above is repeated to place, turning anticlockwise when back to back. End all turning up to face across. 16 bars in all.
3. Four Hand Star round to the left and back to the right, turning out at half way, and ending turning the easy way to face across. Eight bars each way, 16 bars in all.
4. Diagonals cross, first corners, then second corners and then back to place in turn. Four bars for each crossing. Cross moving sideways, to the right, so that diagonals pass back to back, then turn right to face across. 16 bars in all.
5. Repeat of figure 2.
6. All dance a grand chain, cross at the top and bottom first, alternate right and left shoulder passing, two bars per pass. On the first bar as the two dancers approach they tilt their garlands vertically towards each other so that the semicircular part of each garland overlaps, and they rotate the garlands horizontally to maintain this overlap as they meet. In the second bar the garlands are upright to allow the dancers to pass. With four dancers they go around the set twice in this movement. End all facing up. 16 bars in all.
7. Cast out from the top to the bottom, following the separated top pair, and back up the middle, shoulder to shoulder. Cast again but in a wide arc to form a circle facing out and all bow out to the audience. 16 bars in all.

CHANGES TO MOVEMENTS FOR EIGHT

3. Centre four star (1½ times), end pairs turn (2½ times), turn in at half way.
4. Diagonals work in pairs, 1&6, 3&8 then 2&5, 4&7.
6. Grand Chain all the way round once, tops pass and sides pass first.

2. NANCY'S FANCY

Source : film and notation, White Rose of Wellington, New Zealand, 1990.

Steps : Skip step, sidestep, polka step.

Set : Garland dance for 4, 6 or 8 dancers.

02YS

Face in, standing in a circle. Eight bars in all.

1. **Rounds.** Facing in, circle to the left, clockwise, using a sidestep to the left (a slip step like Scottish dancing), turn clockwise to the right to face out and continue circling the same way, clockwise, with slip steps to the right. Reverse, keep facing out and circle back, anticlockwise, with slips to the left, finally turn left anticlockwise to face in and continue circling to place with slips to the left. End movement forming a set in two columns facing across. 16 bars in all

CHORUS - after each figure.

Form a single line along the centre of the set, using a skip step, with all the dancers facing the same way. The odd side dance forward, passing right shoulders and going as far as opposite's place before turning back and coming to the middle, in effect going halfway round their opposite, in a 'horseshoe' path, to end facing to their starting side. At the same time the even side dance forward along a 'back-to-back into line' path, facing across throughout, ending also facing the odds side, with left shoulder to their opposite's right. All dance four polka steps, two a little to the left and two on the spot. All retrace their path back to places, the evens facing across throughout, but the odds turn anticlockwise to their left and go forward around their path to place and turning anticlockwise to face across when back. All dance four polka steps, two a little to the right, and two on the spot. Four bars to each part of this figure, 16 bars in all.

2. **Contra-Star.** Four dancers link right hands and star to the left, clockwise, with polka step, using two polka steps per quarter turn of the star. Turn out and left hand star back to place. Eight bars each way.

If there are only four dancers then all dance the star.

If there are six dancers, the star is done by 2,3,4&5. The persons who are first corner, 1&6, skip around the outside of the star in the opposite direction to the rotation of the star. They turn in at half way to come back in the other direction.

If there are eight dancers, the middle four star and the outer four circle outside.

3. **Allemande** or right and left turns with opposite. Turn into line along the centre by two polkas, and to opposite side by four and back into the line by six and to place by eight. For each quarter turn, travel on the first polka and dance the second on the spot. Turn in and repeat with the other hand. End facing across. 16 bars in all.

4. **Hey.** A large Reel of Four, began by dancing forward and turning to the right to pass opposite by the right shoulder. In 16 bars it can be done twice through, but in the observed performance the dancers cut the last passing or two to get to place in time.

5. **END.** Move to a ring raising and tilting garlands forward to form a crown.

3. GREEN WILLOW

Source : film of Ursa Major from Warwick dancing at Marnhull, Dorset, 1990.

Step : stephops, left foot start.

Set : four dancers, facing down in pairs, with U shaped garlands.

ORDER OF MOVEMENTS

1. Dance down and retire backwards, dance a one way back-to-back with opposite passing right shoulders first. Face up and dance up and retire backwards and dance another one way back-to-back with opposite passing right shoulders first. Each element of the figure takes four bars, 16 bars in all.
2. Neighbours dance round each other once anticlockwise in a circle for two. The first corner pass left shoulders in the centre, crossing along the diagonal and turn to the right to circle for four clockwise, coming in behind the other dancer on that side. The dancers who are the second corner cast to their right as the first corners cross the diagonal and dance round the set clockwise. They reach the first corners original positions as the first corners reach the second corner positions. The four dancers circle for four half way round the set. Then the original second corners cross the diagonal, passing left shoulders and turning to the left into a circle for four anticlockwise, while the original first corners cast out and start to circle anticlockwise to place. Carry on the pattern till back to starting place. Each element of the figure takes two bars, 16 bars in all. (check film) End top pair facing down, bottom pair up.
3. The bottom pair dance up between the tops, approaching in one bar, turning the neighbour by the near hand for two bars so that they end face-to-face and dance one bar on the spot facing the opposite direction to the start of the figure. Go back on the same track, turning with the other hand. It takes two bars each way. One way back-to-back with neighbour, passing right shoulders first. All make a $\frac{1}{2}$ turn and repeat with opposites, odds going between the evens, and end with another one way back-to-back passing right shoulders first. 16 bars in all.
4. The first corners cross, passing right shoulders, but upper body turned so that the garlands slide past each other, and turn to their left to face round clockwise, while the second corners turn to their left on the spot and then cross the diagonals, passing right shoulders and turning to their right, so that the four form a right hand star going clockwise, taking four bars. All star once around clockwise in four bars. First corners cross back passing right shoulders and turn to their left (right?) to face anticlockwise, while the others turn left on the spot and then cross diagonally, turning left into an anticlockwise left hand star. 16 bars in all.
5. Turn neighbour by the right hand once round and dance a one way back-to-back with the neighbour passing right shoulders first. Turn opposite by the left hand once round and dance a one way back-to-back with the opposite, passing right shoulder first.
6. Touch knuckles and circle four clockwise and open out into a line of four facing down in four bars. Dance down and retire backwards in this line. Reform the ring and circle four anticlockwise, for four bars, opening out into a line of four facing up. Dance up and retire backwards and end with a bow towards the top. 16 bars in all.

4. THE ALTON FIGHT

- Source** : The dance originally came from Yorkshire Chandelier as filmed and discussed at a workshop with them. It was collected by a dancer watching a team of Basque women practicing. It was interpreted by Yorkshire Chandelier and developed further by Minden Rose.
- Title** : It was renamed because of the changes from the source. The noise of the clashing and the bustle of the movements remind of the scurmish during the English Civil War at Alton on Wednesday 13th December 1643 during which Col John Bolle was killed in the pulpit of St Lawrence Church.
- Music** : "Brighton Camp", written at the time of the Militia Camps on the South Downs in 1758, and now the British Army's traditional farewell music. The polka rhythm must be very marked in the playing to fit the natural movement of the 'step'. (A²B²)
- Step** : dance walk step in chorus, cross over polka step in figures.
- Set** : this is a dance for units of four, with the last figure for as many as are dancing. It makes a good dance for just four. The dancers each have a U shaped garland, and stand facing up two by two, garlands vertical, opposites being fairly close, nearly shoulder to shoulder. Movements to change position, direction of dancer or garland occur at start of a bar not the end of the previous one.

CHORUS - the dance has a chorus before each figure - 16 bars.

All face up, walk forward four steps, smoothly lowering the garland in front by rotating it in the hands from the vertical to below horizontal. Bring the garland rapidly vertical and polka step on the spot for two bars. Retire to starting place with four walking steps, garland remaining vertical. Turn in to face opposite, raising the garlands a little and tilting them forward, holding them with their tops touching, along the centreline of the set, for two polka steps.

All facing across, walk backwards, away from opposite, smoothly lowering the garland as before, then bring upright quickly for two polkas on the spot. Opposites then approach on four walking steps with garland vertical, and finally raise and tilt garlands to touch opposite's for a last two polkas.

FIGURES - polka step throughout - 16 bars each.

1. TURN PARTNER - in 2's

All take a half turn to the left so that the left file faces up and the right file faces down and inside knuckles of opposite's are touching. Turn opposite once round by the right, clockwise, using eight polka steps, taking care to be in a single line along the centreline at the end of bars 2 and 6 and straight across the set at the ends of bars 4 and 8, as at the start.

Turn in quickly and turn opposite back by the left for the second half.

2. RINGS - in 4's

Move in along the diagonals to immediately form rings of four, putting right wrist over neighbour's left wrist, with garlands vertical and forming a "crown". Polka once around clockwise, facing in throughout, taking care to move round only one "place" every two polkas. Circle back anticlockwise once around and move out to place.

3. DIAGONALS ARCH - in 4's

The second corner, 2&3, make an arch across the diagonal by raising and tilting their garlands so that they touch at the top, and they stand still while the other two dance around them. The active dancers first pass each other face to face under the arch, leading with the left shoulder, and turn to their left to dance around their stationary opposite anticlockwise with their backs to them, facing away. They pass again under the arch face to face, but with right shoulder leading and then dance around their neighbour clockwise, with their backs to them, to their starting place.

The first corner then forms a similar arch and the second corner dances around them, first passing face to face with right shoulder leading and going around their opposite clockwise and then passing left shoulder leading and going round their neighbour anticlockwise to place.

4. CLASH IN SQUARES - in 4's

Dancers start by facing opposites. They polka around clockwise, taking two polkas to move each "place", making a complete circuit back to starting place in eight bars. The movement is not the same as in RINGS as the dancers face across at the end of each move and clash their garland tops with the current opposite on the first beat of each odd bar. The dancers are halfway between "places" at the start of the even bars, either facing up and down along the centreline or facing across. Note that the clashes are alternately with the original opposite and with the neighbour. Repeat going anticlockwise once around. There are four clashes to each half of the figure.

5. **CLASH & CLASH AND GO** - for all as a complete set - length of music, 16 bars plus, depends on number of sets of four dancing.

a. In two lines facing opposites the dancers polka on the spot for eight bars, hitting opposite's garlands on the first beat of the odd bars.

b. The top pair clash, cast out and go down the outside to the bottom of the set, while the other continue to clash as in a. and move sideways to shift up one place. The next pair casts down after the next clash and so on. This clash and go continues for eight bars or till everyone has had a turn and the set is back in the order that it was at the start, whichever is longer.

c. The top pair clash and walk down the middle of the set under the garlands which are now still and making arches across the set. Every two bars another pair clash and go under the tunnel and dance off.

The order of figures was once 3, 2, 1 but it proved difficult to get the diagonal arches going well as a first movement. As given by Yorkshire Chandelier the chorus was polkaed through and the garlands not lowered and the order of figures was 3, 2, 4, 1.

5. HEY BOYS UP WE GO!

Source : At the CDS Pinewoods Camp in 1980 the following "garland" dance was offered for skit night and was so successful that they repeated it for filming next day. It is a good example of adapting from one idiom, Playford, to another, Seasonal Display dancing, and introducing a sense of humour.

Step : dance walk. A "double" is 1 2 3 together.

Music : its Playford tune.

Set : four dancers, each with U shaped garland, in a square, two facing two, each pair being considered a working unit.

1. Pairs forward and back a "double" twice.
2. Turn opposite by the right once around. But put the lead hand against the middle of the opposite's back, not touching hands in any way, so that the dancers are half way to being back to back. Then turn opposite by the left once around. This time with the lead hand in front of the opposite, the leading hand somewhere between middle of the chest and armpit position, so that the dancers are half way to being face to face.
3. Each turns neighbour as in 2.
4. Siding with neighbours, pass by left shoulders, turning body to pass face to face, and as do so swop each other's ends which are in left hands, so that a line of four arches is formed. Come back on same track and swop back garland ends. Siding with opposite, exactly the same, to the left etc.
5. Diagonals cross in turn, first then second, passing face to face and garlands almost touching in vertical plane, moving smoothly into whole rounds clockwise. Diagonals cross back, first then second, and whole rounds clockwise again. In the round the knuckles touch so that the garlands form a "crown".
6. Arming with neighbours, link right elbows, letting the garlands slope backwards to allow it and turn once around and continue to form a basket. The two pairs do not let go but further link their free arms at the elbows. Alternate dancers are facing in and out. The basket goes once round, breaks, the dancers go to their starting positions with garlands vertical.
7. Captures. Opposites capture each other by lowering their garlands around the other so that their opposite is within the garland which is horizontal. The persons who are the first corners lower their's first and the others lower their's on top. Opposite's capture when face to face, and the "first corner" persons push-&-pull, without rotating as a pair, to change places with the other pair in a clockwise direction, then they raise the garlands. Neighbours capture differently. The "first corner" persons who are now in the second corner positions, turn to their right, clockwise, and cast behind their neighbours to go round the outside of the set clockwise to their starting place, with their garland horizontal at waist level in front of them. As they pass their neighbour, the neighbour captures them from behind with their garland, and the pairs, one behind the other, go round a circle clockwise but not around the other pair, and raise garlands. The opposites capture again face -to-face and do a reverse push and pull going half round the other pair anti-clockwise to change places without rotating as a pair. Neighbours capture and then the pairs turn clockwise themselves, not around

the other pair, then approach and use the free garlands to link into a circle anticlockwise. Pause in this position.

9. Exit. One who can, raises their garland vertically and leads the line off linked together.

6. PORTSMOUTH

- Source** : films of mixed side dancing at Adelaide, Australia, 1983, and of White Rose of Wellington, New Zealand in 1990. Thought to have derived originally from Derby Crown via ex-dancers. Both occasions the side was unsure of the dance
- Sticks** : in Australia each dancer has two short sticks, held by the bottoms, vertically in the candle position, but forearms horizontal and diagonally out to the side so that they further apart than would be normal, as if holding a garland. In New Zealand each dancer had a U shaped garland.
- Step** : in Australia cross over polka, right foot in front first, with heel touch down, free foot well raised till thigh almost horizontal and brought down at an angle across the front of the supporting knee. In New Zealand a much lower step was used. All polka and break throughout the dance.
- Break** : done rather deliberately. Stamp right foot in front diagonally forward to the right side, stamp right foot across in front of the supporting left foot, then two stamps of the right foot alongside the left foot.
- Set** : four dancers in single file starting with the ends facing out,
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ORDER OF MOVEMENTS

1. Polka on the spot, facing in the starting position, the ends only polka the first two bars, the middles only the next two bars, all dance the 5-6th bars and end with the break, still facing their starting directions..
2. The ends turn clockwise on four polkas to face in for two polkas and a break. The centres turn each other clockwise (in Australia once, New Zealand twice), right hand on other's wrist, for six polkas, come out of the turn a little early to face the ends and dance the break. > < > <.
3. The pairs turn, right knuckles touching, going round in five polkas, and facing up and down, as at the start of this movement, for the sixth polka and the break.
4. Half Reel of Four in six polkas, passing right shoulders first, and break.
5. Half Reel of Four ending all facing up for the break. The top keeps facing up as they end the reel rather than turning back, but the third dancer has to do a half turn anticlockwise to face up.
6. The 2nd and 4th dancers dance two polkas diagonally forward to the right to be alongside the others forming two lines of two facing up. In this formation they dance four polkas and a break.
7. The now top pair separate and cast out and move down to be the ends of a line of four with the rear pair, who dance on the spot, in three polkas, and dance three polkas and a break in this formation. In Australia the ends were facing down and the middles facing up. In New Zealand the top pair turned in so all faced up in a line of four.
8. The same pair turn out half way round (Australia) or turn in a full turn (New Zealand) on one polka and return to the top, turning in and facing down towards the bottom pair, who continue to face up, in four polkas in all, and

dance two polkas and a break on the spot.

9. First diagonals cross, passing right shoulders, and turning right to face across in two polkas, then the second diagonals cross ditto. Then with a $\frac{1}{2}$ turn to face up and down, neighbours pass left shoulders along the sides of the set and all turn in, the short way, to dance the break facing in along the set's diagonals.

10. First diagonals cross back, passing right shoulders and turning left to face along the sides of the set. Second diagonals cross, passing right shoulders and turning right to face up and down the set. Neighbours change, passing left shoulders and all turn inwards to face along the diagonals for the break.

The shoulder passing in the diagonals and direction of the subsequent turns seemed a little uncertain in the observed performances. It would be logical to chose them to make the movements as easy as possible.

11. Right Hand Star with the inner sticks vertical and together in the centre or garland handles together, taking six polkas to go round once, and dancing the break still in the star formation facing clockwise with sticks / garland handles in the center.

12. Turn out quickly on the start of the next polka to come back with a left hand star once round.

In Australia - All face up for the break. No 1 turns clockwise to face up, the rest turn anticlockwise.

13. The first diagonals dance two polkas on the spot facing up while the other two stand still. The second diagonal dance two polkas on the spot facing up while the other two stand still, then all dance two polkas on the spot and a break.

In New Zealand - all come out of the star into a single column as at the start of the dance but all facing up, > > > >, for the break.

13. A repeat of figure 1, but all facing up.

End with feet together and both arms up in the air.

7. SWEET GARLAND DANCE

- Source** : filmed at Chirstchurch Folk Festival, June 13 1981, as danced by Wessex Woods, a women's clog dance group.
Step : danced in clogs, polka step, right foot across first.
Garland : a garland covered with flowers.
Set : four dancers, starting in a square, facing across,

3	1	m
4	2	

O2YS : stand still

- A1 1-2 two bars polka on spot facing across to opposite, turn and,
 3-6 back-to-back with neighbour on side, pass right shoulders first, two bars each way, turn front and
 7-8 two bars polka on spot to opposite again.
- A2 1-4 dance forward and back to opposite, two bars each way, turn and
 5-8 dance forward and back to neighbour on the side.
- B1 1-6 right hand star once round only to place, knuckles touching in centre,
 7-8 turn outwards alone, to the left, taking two bars to face back,
- B2 1-6 left star once around to place,
 7-8 turn out alone to end facing across to opposite.
- A3 1-8 **Reel of Four** - two bars hesitation to start, then an eight bar reel
- A4 1-2 which runs into the next musical phrase. 1&4 start passing left shoulders and going to their right to start reel with neighbour.

3	1	m	to start,	3
4	2			2

The second corners (2&3) end in place in bar A4-2 and turn the short way to face across.

- 3-8 **Chain** - while the second corner (2&3) polka on the spot, the other two (1&4) continue the path of the reel (figure eight) till they reach their place around the now non-travelling second corner.
- B3 1-2 two bars polka on spot facing opposite,
 3-6 turn opposite once around, touching right knuckles,
 7-8 two bars polka on spot facing opposite.
- B4 1-2 two bars polka on spot facing neighbour along sides,
 3-6 turn neighbour once round touching left knuckles,
 7-8 two bars polka on spot facing opposite again.
- A5 1-4 opposites dance forward and back, two bars each way,
 5-8 keep moving back and turning to end in a line of four facing down.