

BLEDLOW CROSS

- Source** : Dance composed for a set of 12 to exploit the jaunty off-beat of ragtime.
- Set** : 12 dancers, working in groups of 3.
- Music** : Scott Joplin's tune or similar.
- Steps** : A sequence like / 1 h 2 h/ 1 h 2 h/ 1 h 2 h/ 1 2 3 -/ so that alternate 4 bars start off opposite feet. Last bar emphasised.
- Hands** : sticks or handkerchiefs. Arms swing alternately, the natural way. Sticks crossed in turns or hit in passings. Both hands raised up and out in a big sweep on the 4th bar where it is easy to fit in.

1. ENTRY

A single file of 12 dancers, thought of as in 4 groups of 3, come onto the dancing area and, after moving around the space, achieve a straight line along the centre of the area, with No.1 at the top.

The centre point for the rest of the dance should be where No 5 in the line is, because of the next figure, not between 6 & 7 as might be expected.

2. WHEEL

On the first beat, the first group of 3 make $\frac{1}{4}$ turn individually on the spot to face to their right, the third group make a $\frac{1}{4}$ turn on the spot to their left, while the other 2 groups continue to face up. The first and third groups, now shoulder to shoulder, dance a clockwise wheel for a $\frac{1}{4}$ of a full revolution, in 4 bars, so that the first group will be facing down and the third facing up in a line across the centre of the set. The second and fourth groups remain facing up and move forward for the same 4 bars, till they are where the first and third groups were when they did their $\frac{1}{4}$ turn on the spot, they then also make $\frac{1}{4}$ turns on the spot to face round the set clockwise.

1	1			4
2	2	4	1	5
3	3	5	2	6
4	4	6	3	
5	5			9 8 7 3 2 1
6	6	7		
7	7	8		10
8	8	9	10	11
9	9		11	12
10	10		12	
11	11			
12	12			

The set is now in a cross formation with each arm formed by a group of 3. Note that there should be a gap between the arms in the middle of the set.

The cross completes the revolution till the first group is back at the top (12 bars, 16 bars in all).

3. SQUARE

In this movement the groups of three work as units. At the start the set is in a cross with the arms facing round clockwise. Instead of rotating around the centre, the groups work around the square alternately moving forward in line of three or in single files of three.

Bars 1-4 : each line abreast of 3 dances forward till lines form edge of a square, all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ to right to form single files of 3 on the /123-/.

Bars 5-8 : dance forward along side of square, and all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ to right to form line abreast again.

Bars 9-12 : each line abreast dances forward till form cross again.

Bars 13-16 : carry on to other edge of square & $\frac{1}{4}$ right turn to form files.

Bars 17-20 : dance along side of square & all turn $\frac{1}{4}$ right to form lines.

Bars 21-24 : each line dances forward to form original cross in original places.

1	4 5 6	1	7	4 5 6
2		2	8	
3		3	9	

4 5 6 10 11 12

7	7			1
8	8			2
9	9	10 11 12	10 11 12	3

7	10 11 12	7	1	10 11 12
8		8	2	
9		9	3	

10 11 12 4 5 6

1	1			7
2	2			8
3	3	4 5 6	4 5 6	9

4. REELS

From the cross formation, the outer ends face the centre and the other 2 of each 3 face outwards. Start progressive reels along the arms from the outside, first passing right shoulders. Simple reel of 3 twice through, or reel of 6 across the full diagonal or back or work along each arm in turn going round clockwise.

1
2
3

4 5 6 10 11 12

7
8
9

5. BIG CIRCLE

As dancers come out of the reels progressively, they turn to their right into a clockwise circle. They are not in their original order, the 3rd and 4th groups are in reverse order. The group leaders are now, 1, 4, 9, 12.

6. ROUNDS & STARS

The group leaders turn in to their right and lead their groups into four rounds of 3 persons going round clockwise inside the original big circle. Turn inwards to come back anticlockwise making Four 3-handed stars.

Group leaders lead their groups out into the big circle going anticlockwise.

7. CENTRE

All face the centre of the ring, all dance into the centre, arms at sides, and retire backwards, both arms up. Repeat and end feet together facing in.