

PERTH GARLAND DANCE

- Source** : film of Fair Maids of Perth, at Adelaide 1983, danced for eight.
Step : skip change step rather than a polka.
Set : eight 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 as required, 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 by the end of the fourth bar, carrying on for two more bars and then moving out to opposite's place by the end. All face up momentarily.
Evens, on the odd side, turn clockwise to face down on the first beat of the next bar and the above is repeated to place, but turning anti-clockwise when back to back. End all turning up to face across. 16 bars.
3. Centre four right star round to the left $1\frac{1}{2}$ times and back to the right, turning out at half way, and ending turning the easy way to face across. The ends turn as pairs $2\frac{1}{2}$ times, turning in at half way. Eight bars each way, 16 bars in all.
4. "Diagonals" in pairs cross, first corners 1&6, 3&8, then second corners 2&5, 4&7, 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, and the two sides first, alternate right and left shoulder passing, using two bars per pass. On the first bar as the two dancers approach they tilt their garlands forward and 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. 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.