

FAILSWORTH GARLAND DANCE

- Source** : One of a set of six dances collected from Sam Holt who danced with Failsworth Men and taught the Failsworth Garland Girls.
- Step** : Cross-over Polka. All start outside foot across.
- Music** : Blue Bell Polka or similar tune.
- Set** : Column set, units of 8, each with a garland.
- Hands** : Unless otherwise given Garlands are held above head.

DANCE STRUCTURE

Step Up starts the dance and comes between each figure. The dance ends with the Dance Off. The other figures may follow in any/a set order at the discretion of the leader.

STEP UP

1. STARS
2. GRAND CHAIN
3. SWINGS
4. BOWS
5. CHAIN AND SWING
6. FINAL FIGURE
7. DANCE OFF

STEP UP

There is no specific step up figure. Four polkas at the beginning and between each figure facing front can be used to create a "breather" and realign.

1. **STARS** 16 Steps - in groups of four.

- 2 steps into a right hand star touching knuckles, stretching garlands out
- 6 steps to turn one full circle,
- 1 step to turn by outside of star to form left hand star hands as above,
- 5 steps to turn star one full circle,
- 2 steps back to place.

2. **GRAND CHAIN (HORSESHOE HEY)**

Nos 3,5,7 follow No 1, Nos 4,6,8 follow No 2

Steps 1 & 2 Nos 1 & 2 cross over by the right and come face to face with next dancers (1 faces 4, 2 faces 3)

Steps 3 & 4 No 1 passes 4 by the left, No 2 passes 3 by the left

Steps 5 & 6 Nos 3 & 4 cross over by the right.

(No 3 faces No 6, No 4 faces No 5)

No 1 passes No 6 by the right, No 2 passes No 5 by the right

Steps 7 & 8 No 3 passes No 6 by the left, No 4 passes No 5 by the left

No 1 passes No 8 by the left, No 2 passes No 7 by the left

Step 9 & 10 Nos 5 & 6 commence chaining by crossing by the right. At this point dancers 1 & 2 have come to the end and cross over by the right back to their original sides. Dancers 3 & 4 are now passing 7 & 8 by the right.

The move continues to progress round, with dancers chaining back to original position.

3. **SWINGS** 16 steps.

- 1 polka to face partner across the set.
- 1 polka to meet right hand with partner in line of eight.
- 4 polkas to swing right hand one full circle.
- 2 polkas backwards.

2 polkas forwards (a U shape) to meet left hand with partner.
4 polkas to swing left hand one full circle.
1 polka backward to place.
1 polka to turn to face top.

4. **BOWS** 20 steps. This figure is across the music.

2 polkas into lines of four all facing front (1+2, 5+6 3 1 2 4
move backwards in between couple behind) 7 5 6 8
For the time of 2 polkas all bow garlands to front (1 down, 1 up)
4 polkas pivoting on outer dancer, swing to face bottom (1 swings around 3, 2 swings around 4)
2 polkas in line facing bottom
For the time of 2 polkas all bow
4 polkas swing inwards to face top (complete full circle)
For the time of 2 polkas all bow
2 polkas back to place.

5. **CHAIN AND SWING**

Steps 1 & 2 :

Dancers 1 & 2 dance to meet right shoulders
Dancer 3 turns out to face down and meet No 5 by the right
Dancer 4 turns out to face down and meet No 6 by the right
Dancers 7 and 8 turn to meet right shoulders
forming a cross thus:

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

Steps 3 to 6 :

Each pair swings right hand one full circle
2 polkas to pass on around in the direction faced to and meet next dancer, left shoulders
Thus:

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

4 polkas to swing left hand, continue passing in two and swinging in four, alternately left and right back to original position, 8 swings in all

6. **FINAL FIGURE**

1 polka to face partner
1 polka into a line, meeting partner by right
6 polkas to swing right hand with partner one and a half times

Music ends with a chord. All bow to outside (for the time of 2 polkas)

7. **DANCE OFF**

Remain "bowed" till called "up", music restarts, call "front" (face front as one line of 8). Dance off as a line.