

GORGIO

Source : figures from book of Hampshire Gypsy songs and dances arranged as a flowing sequence. Sequence is short so it is repeated. Character of country dance. Emphasise "touching" to contrast with other dances.

Set : units of 4, start facing up in pairs, holding inside hands.

Music : moderately slow jig (from Mary O'Hara)

Steps : skip change step, pas de basque for dancing on spot. Start left foot forward.

1. Dance up - move up for two bars holding hands, let go and dance a circle on one's own outwards, to meet in centre, join other hands and face down. Repeat down and end facing in.

2. Step on spot - 2 energetic pas de basques, crossing feet markedly, toes touching down by outside of supporting foot, and turn on spot with scoot step. Repeat. Hands on hips.

3. Cross over in a curved path, pass right shoulder, giving right hands to pass, during 2nd skip change, veer to right and then turn on one's own to left to face back during the 4th in sweeping circle. Continue to place, ending facing across. Hands on hips in the turns.

4. Take neighbours right hand and lead straight into a right and left hand star. End by facing up, odd numbers turning inwards to face up and taking opposites still outstretched left hand in their right.

5. While first pair dance on spot, 2nd pair come up under their arms which are held up, separate and go round them to their place, while first pair separate after the seconds have passed round and turn out to face down. From facing down, 1st pair repeat by going under 2nd etc.

6. As 1st pair come up out of last movement, cast inwards to be between 2nd pair so that all are in a line of 4 facing down and holding hands, 1sts between 2nds. Dance down set 4 in line. All turn on spot on 4th 'step' to face back without letting go hands. 1sts raise hands between them before they turn and turn by backing under these arms, so they turn away from each other, and end with their arms crossed in front of them. The ends turn inwards to face back and join their 'free' hands behind and above the centre pair to form an arch. Dance back up the set in 'triumph' 4 in line. On the 8th 'step' the 2nds move up the set a little, bringing the arms that join them in front of the 1sts.

7. They are now in a circle of 4 facing inwards, all with hands crossed at wrists. Basket to right, once (twice) round, right foot in centre, pushing with left - 4 bars. Without letting go, 1st pair duck under 2nd's arms to change places and uncross hands - 2 bars. Then duck under again letting go hands with 2nd pair and turning in to face up - 2 bars.

8-13. Repeat the above with the pairs in changed places.

14. as 7 but basket for 8 bars, ending with right feet in centre and hands, uncrossed and rejoined so that can be apart, raised in circle.

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEA

Dance elements extracted from descriptions,

First idea order

Second order

Step Dance

: lead in set clockwise and back b. 1.

Bonnets So Blue

- : right and left stars in 4's c. 5.
- : swing or basket 8.
- : pair go under other pair's arms d. 6.

Jacky Robinson

- : hold hands and/or step f. 3.
- : change places and repeat 10.
- : twirl partners under arms 9.

Fernal Up & Down

- : hands on partner's shoulders & sidestep g. 2.

Triumph

- : lines change sides and back a. 4.
- : "triumph movement" down centre and back e. 7.

Interpretations :

Have no gypsy "steps", could see Peter Ingram, use pas de basque etc.

Triumph movement could be with 4 persons rather than usual 3 leading into a convenient basket & ducking movements.

Convert first move in pairs into an up and down rather than a circle.

Go under arms could involve changing sides but then part of dance would be on wrong side.

Having tried it :

Start is wrong - convert to lots of travel & avoid stepping in 1st 8 bars

DANCES OF HAMPSHIRE GYPSIES

"JACKY ROBINSON"

Old Ferry (Furry?) Dance - Four Handed Reel

Words to A Music

"Jacky, Jacky Robinson! Jacky, Jacky Robinson!
 Four and twenty years he went to sea,
 Why! dam'ee, dont'ee know Jacky Robinson!"

Two couples face each other (or two men face their partners). When the music strikes up, the first couple advance a step and hold each other by the right and left hands (as in the Grand Chain of the Lancers). Then

they dance *to* each other; a heel and toe movement with a stamp at fourth bar. Then they change places, cross and whirl each other round in centre, and dance a jig step. Then the man comes behind his partner and holds up her hand, and she bends round and under his arm, perhaps half a dozen times. Then he leads her back, and the second couple begin.

"BONNETS SO BLUE"

Four Handed Swing Dance

Play over the tune three times. Two couples meet in centre and dance with swing-waltz step, crossing hands. First right hands crossed and go round, then left, circling all the time. Pass under arms of top couple and join partner, and dance in couples, holding partner with one hand and skirt with the other. Meet in middle again and repeat.

As the tune changes, reverse the movement from right to left. Top couple then pass under hands, and the two couples join their partners and dance as before. If danced by a couple only, they raise right hands together, and swing then high two or three times before dance begins. Tambourines held in left hands.

"STEP DANCE"

For Twelve Couples - Old Hampshire

Twelve couples or so dance round in a ring, the man holding up left arm, the woman's right hand holding skirt, the left arm interlinked with partner's right, to a short two-step with a slide in between, turning round once at end of fourth bar, with a stamp and pause before tune changes. Then repeat step and turn round again at end of last bar.

"FERNAL UP AND DOWN"

Swing song of the Tent-Dwellers

Two children take hold of each other's arms, facing each other, or hands are placed on each other's shoulders, and dance three steps to each side alternately, singing the words as they dance up and down with a swinging movement. Then swing each other round to the next three bars.

Words

"O! Fernal up and down! He's gone to London Town!
To marry Lucy Brown! He's gone to knock her down!
O! Fernal up and down! He's gone to London Town!
To marry Lucy Brown!"

"THE TRIUMPH OR FOUR HANDS ROUND"

Country Dance - Old Hampshire

(I) Change Sides

(II) First couple up the middle

Sing

"Up the middle! Down the side'a!
Don't you hurt my pretty little dear!
Don't you tease her! Don't you squeeze her!"

Don't you hurt my pretty little dear"

(III) Swing Round

Form long sides, as in Sir Roger de Coverley; men to left, ladies to right. Four girls and four men at top pass between, changing sides, to the tune (I) of the "Triumph". Then return to place and swing in couples. Top couple at opposite corners go down the room to the tune (II) of "Don't you hurt my pretty Dear", followed by the partner of the girl at the top, who leads her back to her place. They then swing round with second couple, to tune (III)

"FISH AND 'TATERS"

Gypsy step dance of the tent dwellers

Words to first part of tune

"Ei! Ei! Ei! For the fish and taters,
Ei! Ei! Ei! For the fish and cod!
La di du du-dle du di, du di
La dudle du di, du day!"

To second part of tune hum the last two lines twice

Two girls hold a stick horizontally, one at each end. One of them, holding on to her end of the stick, begins a heel-and-toe step, with an occasional back-fling of the right foot, the while she revolves and circles round, singing the words, and humming the bars in between.

[These are the words in a book of songs and tunes of Hampshire Gypsy Material]