

Three ribbon dances were collected by Cecil Sharp in the South of England. The formation was longways. Step 123 hop. Dancers at fingertip separation. Ribbons about 8ft long. Partners were linked by a ribbon held up in the right hand and the free end held in the left in front of the body. Could be two held together.

EAST COKER MORRIS DANCE. (near Yeovil)

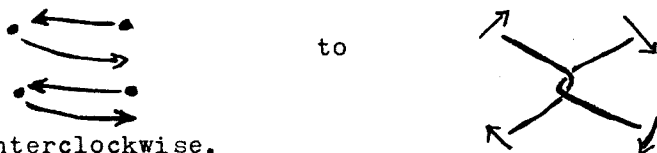
Tune - version of Helston.

Set - longways for multiples of 4, usually 3 times through.

NB. Neutrals stand with slack ribbons.

A1 Star Clockwise. (Go round twice)

To form star, 1st and 2nd pairs change places passing by the left sideways so that the ribbons wrap round and can be held up to form a cross. (1st Bar)



A2 Star Counterclockwise.

Turn in to come back if retaining ribbon in right hand and make a smaller diameter cross or, turn out if changing ribbon to left hand to hold up. Back to place by the inverse of forming the cross, in last bar.

B1 Arches. (Go round twice)

1st and 2nd pairs together. The pair coming up the set at each change goes over. (1 bar to move, 1 bar to face).

B2 Swing and Change Places.

Each pair link left elbow for turns, evens take the action, facing alternate ways, right hands up and ribbon over the heads, all pairs rotating in synchronism. Pairs travel round each other a half circle progressing counterclockwise. Do not cross ribbons, one does arm over, not round.

Thus 1 turn per 2 bars - 1 turn on the spot (bars 1 & 2)

1 turn out to side (bars 3 & 4)

1 turn back to be progressed (bars 5 & 6)

1 turn on the spot (bars 7 & 8)

OFF TO CHARLESTOWN or TRIP TO WEYMOUTH (neighbours in Dorset).

Set - longways for multiples of 4.

A1

Opposites cross and return as in Speed the Plough country dance. Pass by the left (2 bars) and turn round to the right in opposites place (2 bars), the path is rather dictated by the need to keep the ribbon up and taut. Pass by the right and turn to place.

A2

Circle in 4's round to left and back (all join hands). Ribbon in outside hand and slack, free end inside hand and hold neighbours hand so ribbon square formed.

B1

Top pair separate, walk down outside of set, passing ribbon over top of set, and meet at bottom while rest swing on spot in pairs as in East Coker dance. Rest form arches at end.

B2

Top pair move up to the top under the arches, ribbons held up normally. All rest step on spot.

A3

Star Clockwise and back - as East Coker but half length - in 4's.

B3

Top pair swing to the bottom, with swing as above, under the arches while rest clap hands together over their heads at arms length, ribbons held at end.

NB. Although pairs progress to bottom they always dance with the same pair so that there are neutrals every other turn. .

CUMBERLAND REEL.

Set - 4 pairs in longways set.

A1 - Different movement each repeat - see below.

A2 - Arches, as East Coker.

B1 - Bottom pair stand and make their arch, single cast from the top of the others, coming back to place under the bottom arch, hand at end going down.

B2 - as B3 in OFF TO CHARLESTOWN, all move up one place.

Different figures were used for A1 at whim e.g. hands-across, hands round, rights-&-lefts, ladies chain, basket, balance-&-swing, diagonals cross, turns, and movements for all 8. The following are chosen for the contrast.

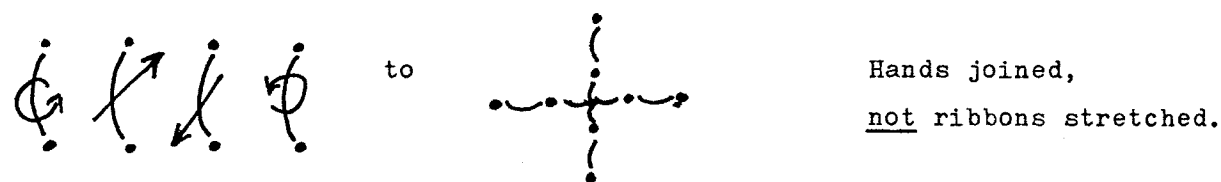
1. Face Opposite, step (2 bars) and turn single on spot (2 bars). Both must turn up (or down) to avoid twisting ribbon. Repeat the same (or opposite) way.

2. Diagonals cross. First corners cross passing left shoulder so that ribbons are crossed. Second corners cross passing left shoulder to keep ribbons taut. Cross back passing same shoulders, 2nd corners first, then 1st corners.

3. Circle for 8. Form circle by one of middle diagonals crossing the set. Circle to left and right, or once round, either holding ribbon up with inside or outside hand, or slackly in inside hand.



4. Star for 8. Move to form a double star and go round to left and back.



5. Dip and Dive along the set. Pairs face and go under and over the complete length of the set and back. Always go under coming in at the top, and over coming in at the bottom. Optional turn out at ends and spins as pass over.



(6. End dance with pairs swing on spot as described for East Coker.)

NB. Speed up to end.