

ARCOS, THE ARCHES

Source : video of Burgos Women's side from Spain at Sidmouth 1989. A dance in the style of "The Rose" which is otherwise unique.

Music : typical spanish tune with 1-23 rhythm, suggest slow jigs

Tool : U shaped garland, reasonably rigid

Step : 1-23 not a skip-change (*some doubt as tune may be in 10/8*)

Set : 12 dancers with garlands plus a leader without. The leader takes and relinquishes the same garland end, that of the first of the dancers with a garland. She needs to be able to recognise this one!

ENTRY - in a single file following leader moving into an anticlockwise circle, each with own garland and swaying garlands together, outwards first. End with the leader standing in the centre and all the dancers in pairs back to back, evens facing in and odds out.

CIRCULAR HEY - the dancers start to move to their left with a left lead, ie evens go back, weaving in a circular hey all the way round, turning between with a strong swirl of the skirt so as to pass each dancer back to back. Perhaps more emphasis on changing the lead arm than rotation of body to achieve effect. End back to back, turn so that all face in in a circle and swing the left end of their garland from left to right into right hand neighbour's left hand, the all quarter turn to left to face round circle anticlockwise, handles together in front of body so that garlands are over shoulders (*suggest that it would be tidier to take both ends in right hand, move sideways to right to put ends in front and to separate hands* _ Leader takes free end and leads off anticlock. Throughout any free hands are placed on hips.

TUNNEL - leader starts tunnel on odd side moving up centre of set. Others take alternate sides, facing in, one side has hands apart, opposite has hands crossed at the wrists. Dancers need to be far enough apart for next figure.

LEAD OFF - as soon as tunnel set up, leader crosses set and goes round next clockwise, leads across set and around neighbour anticlockwise and proceeds in this way down to the bottom, through every garland (*except perhaps the last*). The others follow but, very importantly, do not move off until they are pulled round on the spot and have to move.

ARCHES - leader immediately starts another tunnel, alongside remainder of first tunnel and starts them moving up, but now standing on the even side or opposite moving up the set as the previous lead-off finishes. When at top, start down the middle to get there just when the previous lead off is finishing and the other end of the tunnel complete - ie movements overlap.

DOUBLE CIRCLE - lead off into anticlock circle until out of arches then the back end, the last 6 dancers, start going clockwise so that ends overlap and form into two circles, one in the gaps in the other, knuckles touching, leader handing the garland end to the other set end inwards from the outside and herself staying outside. The 12 dance 6 slips, Scottish CD style, to left with garlands lowered in front, 2 equivalent to raise garlands while standing still, 6 slips to right with garlands up. Start to reform single big circle anticlockwise by leader picking up end she had before from the outside and leading them round. Set quickly appears as a spiral out.

SNAIL - danced with garlands over shoulders as at end of Circular Hey to keep close together, leader moves to centre of set and the leader hands garland end to no 3 so that 2 & 3 are linked by two garlands and they stand still. Rest wind round anticlock, each in turn stopping on right side of a stationary dancer odds by odd, evens by evens, so that garlands form a crown across the centre each laid on in turn. The leader still dances around ahead of moving dancers, if chosing someone else for next movement, otherwise can stand in centre. Keep it close and quick, otherwise its boring!

LIFT - leader, spare member of team or one of crowd brought in, if small person the crown is lowered and the person is sat on top and raised, alternatively an object can be placed on the top, if an adult they are put underneath. A photograph in a Spanish book shows the leader being raised! The crown is rotated once around and the person allowed to leave and the leader goes under if not already there.

UNWIND - the leader takes their normal end and leads the set out from under the crown. If they have put it together wrongly there may be problems!

STAR - odd move in, turn left to face out, hands crossed and pas de basques.
Change with evens. Repeat and end in the star formation.

IN & OUT - leader takes the usual end and leads the set off under the windows. Then exit.