

ANSTY MILL

- Set** : 8 dancers in 2 lines of 4. **Initial Formation:** column facing up. One's "partner" changes during the dance.
- Music** : Irish jig (Brian Boru's March) or Bizet's tune in "L'Arlesienne" which is the folk tune for the French dance.
- Steps** : NW cross-over polka step, skip.
- Arms** : Sticks - short & held at bottom. Special sequence for polka on spot [see under (1)]. Hands at sides, sticks horizontal, or in front in "candles" position for polka, unless stated otherwise. Natural swings, alternate arms for skips.

PART A

1. Dance on spot facing up (to music), polka step & special arm sequence. 1st 2 polkas, sticks help up & twisted, 2nd 2 polkas, arms swung across body and back twice, low so that sticks swing across in front of thighs, 3rd 2 polkas, sticks held up & kept still, 4th 2 polkas, arms swung across & apart twice, high at head level or above.
2. Working in 4's, (for this one's "partner" is the one across set) top pairs cast out, followed by their seconds, using polka step & turn in to face partner across the set (about half way between starting positions of 1st & 2nd pairs) in line of 4 (4 bars). Cross to other side, weaving, first pair pass right shoulders, end facing UP again on other side, using skip step & alternate swinging arms (4 bars). (Not necessarily a full half reel as sometimes there is no need to make a final loop)
3. Repeat (2) to place with mirror image. Same pair lead as (2). However end facing up then turn DOWN by turning out on the spot.
4. As 1. facing down.
5. As 2. but starting facing down, now lead by the other pair.
6. As 3. end facing across the set. (from now one's "partner" is a neighbour on the same side of the set)

PART B

7. As 1. facing across the set, in 2 lines of 4.
8. Still working in 4's, the right hand person of each pair on each side stands still in their place for 4 bars (or polkas on spot) while the left hand person polkas behind their current partner to end shoulder to shoulder with them on their other side, that is, they are now the right hand of the pair, and the pair is NOT opposite the pair across the set but displaced to the right.(4 bars). The pairs skip across to change sides, current left hand dancers passing left shoulders in the middle, and turning as a PAIR, keeping shoulder to shoulder, to face back, now EXACTLY opposite the others again.
9. As 8 to place but ending in a quadrille (square dance) formation. 1&2 together facing down the set at the top and 7&8 facing up at bottom, others face across. (Note that one's "partner" has changed again to the person who was one's other neighbour). There is a danger that those forming the ends will travel too far or not far enough. Must not get into too small a set at this stage as it spoils the finish of the dance.

PART C

10. As 1. facing in in a quadrille (NOT A CIRCLE!).
11. As 8. all 4 pairs passing across set TOGETHER to opposite sides in bars 5-8.
12. Repeat to place but ending forming a double star with the individuals in each pair facing opposite directions. As the pair turn as a pair at the end to face the centre, the right hand member continues, going in front of the other of their pair, till forming a right hand star in the centre facing round clockwise. The other one of the pair only turns far enough to be facing round anti-clockwise, ending on the outside of the star. (It could also be done by the left hand member of each pair

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turning on spot to form star or again turning as a pair to form the double star and the outer one continuing to turn on the spot to face otherway - whichever suits the team)

PART D

13. As 1. facing direction as end of 12.
14. Grand Chain, passing right shoulders first, till back to place, end facing in a circle. It is nice to hit sticks on first beat of bar for each passing to keep the movement rhythmically together)
15. As 1. facing in a small circle (try to make it look different from 13). End with a jump, arms sloping up & out so that hands touch, sticks crossed with neighbours in the circle.

THE END

The dance builds up to a climax, not by speeding up but by increasing the band volume, especially drumming.

ROY'S DANCE from the FRENCH HOBBY HORSE DANCE