

FIVE HANDED NW MORRIS

- Source** : Choreographed for Experienced North West Morris Workshop at 38th Sidmouth Festival Wednesday 5th August 1992, based on movements from other traditions.
- Set** : 5 dancers starting by standing in a circle facing the centre.
- Steps** : cross over polka, walk step.
- Implements** : slings to show off, or two sticks waved in figure 8's.
- Advice** : small sets have to have more eye catching movements to hold interest. With five dancers, no one needs be the leader all the time. There is no natural column formation so other patterns have to be exploited.

Step Sequence : Walk forward 4 steps (2 bars), 2 polkas on the spot, retire 4 steps (2 bars), walk forward 4 steps and turn on the 4th to face the opposite direction (2 bars), 2 polkas on the spot (2 bars), walk forward (ie facing the opposite direction to before) 4 steps (2 bars), 4 polkas on the spot, turning or moving as necessary ready for the following figure (2 bars). 16 bars in all.

PART ONE

1. Facing the centre to start, dance the sequence to the centre and back etc and end in a near circle, three dancers facing two.
2. Walk forward into a line, shoulder to shoulder, and turn on spot on two polkas, most do complete turn but one end turns only halfway. Retire back into lines but now the end who half turned in on the other side. Repeat but this time the other end of the line of three changes side. Dancers have moved round one station.

The following is all polka stepped.

- 3A. The middle of the three, stars three hands round (left hand across) with the two on their right once round, then with the two opposite (right hand across) and finally with the two on their left (left hand again). Thus one does all the stars and the others do only two or one. As one dancer in each star would have to make a largish change of direction, they break off from the star to anticipate the next star. Inactives stand still.
- 3B. The middle then swaps from one pair to the other giving stars of 3 & 2 and back again. All rotate. 4 bars each star.
- 3C. Five handed star one direction, 8 bars and 4 bars out to circle formation.

PART TWO

4. Facing round the circle clockwise, dance the sequence around the circle ending in the formation as at end of fig 1.
5. As Figure 2, but with dancers in different places.

The following is all polka stepped.

- 6A. Facing across three v two, cross over passing two between the three and all turn to right and circle clockwise to place. Repeat but circle anti-clockwise. End with the "middle" going into the centre to lead into the next movement.
- 6B. Four dancers, now in a square, dance a "right and left through" or square chain, going across the set first, while the fifth dancer travels out of the square on a side, loops to come back through the top, out through the side, back through the bottom ending at the top. The fifth enters and leaves in the same direction as the four are crossing.
- 6C. Four face across and the fifth faces down. The four dance forward into line right shoulders and back four times. The fifth dances a figure eight around them, going outside as they go forward and crossing the centre line as they fall back. The bottom pair come between the top pair and all face up.

PART THREE

7. All face up in a line of five, and dance the sequence. End in the line of five with the outer two facing clockwise and the inner two anti-clockwise and th centre facing up. Rotate as a line one complete turn.
8. Reel of five, started by the middle three, and the ends come in when reached, and dance off in single file.