

JOHN'S JIG

SOURCE : learnt from Nancy Butterfly, Redditch. Originally this was a stick dance dating from about 1880 and later danced as a carnival dance at Lostock Junction, near Bolton. The form collected by Trefor Owen is from about 1921. Minden Rose have chosen to name their version, which differs in many details from Trefor's, to honour John, who supported Minden Rose and had danced the Cotswold morris.

SET - A longways for 8 person, in two files of 4. Start odd pairs face across, even pairs face up.

IMPLEMENTS - a pair handkerchiefs, white with coloured trim.

MUSIC - tune composed by Jean Piper with Bonnie Dundee as alternative.

STEP - Single step, left foot start.

HAND MOVEMENTS - (when not using a hand in a figure - swinging etc) both hands are swung simultaneously sharply down and up at the side of the body from shoulder level down to hip and back. When in a figure which involves the use of one hand, the free hand is held up in a similar position.

DANCE STRUCTURE.

The "Cross" starts the dance and comes between each figure. The collected 6th figure is not done. The dance ends on a CROSS.

CROSS

1. CAST
2. TWO'S AND FOUR'S
3. HEY
4. CHAIN
5. REEL

CROSS - 16 steps

Odd pairs crossover, passing right shoulder in 4 steps, into lines on the other side of the set (1 4 5 8, 2 3 6 7) turning the easy way to face down and into the swing. Swing the person below, who has been stepping spot facing up and moving up a little, half way round to form a line again, in 3 steps, turn 1 step into other hand, swing 4 steps back (to lines again and odd pairs facing across the set), and odd pairs cross back to place in 4 steps, all facing front, or what ever direction is needed by the next figure, on last step. Nos 1 & 5 swing with right and back with left, nos 2 & 4 swing with left then right, to be mirror image. These are the 'natural' arms to use.

1. CAST - 16 steps

Whole set single cast out, 1 and 2 leading each file, down to bottom (6 steps), in at bottom, up centre shoulder to shoulder (6 steps). Face partner 1 step, 2 steps out backwards, 1 step to face top.

2. TWO'S AND FOUR - 16 steps

End couples: 4 steps in to meet Right hand, side by side still facing across set in line down centre of the set, swing half way round to change places along centre line of set, in 4 steps with Right hand, change hands and swing for 4 steps with Left hand, ending side by side along centre of set facing back to own place, 3 steps forward to place, facing up on the last step.

Middle 4: 2 steps into Right hand star shape, 6 steps round with Right hand, change hands, turning inward, 6 steps back with the left hand, and 2 steps out to place, turning the easy way.

3. **HEY** - 16 steps

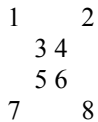
Reel on side of set, follow figure of 8 pattern. As odd pairs come out of CROSS they do not face front or up but go straight into reel turning to go down, while the even pairs face up. The first passing has the odds going outside the evens. 2 steps to each passing. Go straight into CROSS at end the easy way.

4. **CHAIN** - 32 steps

First corners, 1 and 4, perform the figure first while the second corner, 2 and 3 stay in their places, then 2nd corners repeat the figure as a 'mirror image'. 1 and 4 meet in centre and take right hands - 2 steps; swing round clockwise once & a bit - 6 steps; dance to right in clockwise circle all around neighbour - 8 steps going behind (outside) neighbour to own place. On to meet face to face again, 2 steps. Swing same person once & a bit round with left hand; dance to left, counterclockwise around opposite, crossing straight across set at end to place. Then 2nd corners repeat in reverse, first left hand turn and go round neighbour counterclockwise and then right hand turn and go round opposite clockwise. When inactive/neutral, each dances on the spot facing across the corners/diagonal.

5. **REEL** - 32 steps

Using 4 steps:- 1,2,7 and 8 dance out to sides, 1 and 2 moving up but backwards, 7 and 8 moving down and backwards, spreading set a little, 3,4,5 and 6 move into centre, two steps in and 2 steps to turn so that all face along arm of X created either in or out. (ie 1--3, 2--4)



4 steps:- passing R, change places with person facing.

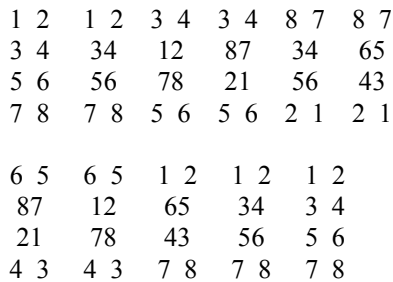
2 steps:- middle 4 turn 1/2 star L to diagonal's place, ends turn in on these two steps to face centre.

4 steps:- move on pass R on opposite end of X to diagonally opposite starting position.

2 steps:- middle 4 turn 1/2 star, ends turn in to face centre.

Continue this reel movement using 4 steps to pass, and 2 steps to 1/2 star or turn throughout, until back in the original X positions at the beginning of the figure. Then 4 steps to place facing up. Ends turning on spot, middles move out.

Thus:



FINAL CROSS FIGURE - as above but end with odd pairs facing out & even pairs facing in, alternately, making lines along sides with hands up, arms sloping out & hopefully crossed at wrists with neighbours, feet together (& smiling!).

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