

THE ROYTON MORRIS

The following notes are based on Maud Karpeles book, which is at present out of print.

STEPS:

- Walking Step (r.l.), in Step-up-and-step-back and most of stepping sequences.
- Royton Polka Step ($\begin{matrix} hl \\ lb \end{matrix} / r.t; hl; \begin{matrix} r \\ rb \end{matrix}$) in polka stepping figures.
- Caper (r.l.), in No. 1, No. 3 and Mossley. (In Mossley free foot behind).
- High Caper (Rhc, Lhc), in Mossley (free foot well forward).
- Spring Caper (r. r.l.), in No. 4 - not like Cotswold $\frac{1}{2}$ caper.

SEQUENCES:

ts = toe to side; xb = free foot crossed behind; xf = crossed front.

NUMBER ONE - in One-No. 1; Two-No. 1's; Three-No. 1's; & Advance.

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|-----|----|----|---|
| oc | oc | tw | tw | oc | | |
| R | L | / | rts | rx | rt | / |
| | | | hl | hl | hl | |

Can be started with left foot. Repetitions started with alternate feet.

NUMBER TWO

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| oc | oc | tw | tw | oc | |
| Rts | Rxb | / | rts | rx | rt |
| hl | hl | | hl | hl | hl |

- ditto -

MOSSLEY - in Single and Double Mossley; Cross Sides.

| | | | | |
|------------------|----|---|-------------------|-----|
| ic | ic | | oc | oc |
| R | L | / | Rhc | Lhc |
| Free foot behind | | | Free foot forward | |

STEP-UP - in Step-up-and-back; No. 1 sequences; Turn-round; No. 3.

3 steps forward and swing free leg forward with lift of supporting foot. Slings = ic ic / oc oc /

STEP-BACK - in Step-up-and-back; Single-Mossley.

3 steps backward and swing free leg back and up from the knee with lift of supporting foot.
Slings = oc oc / oc oc /

SLINGS:

Twists (tw) above head, with polka step. 3 to a bar and 4th freewheeling.

Circles outward (oc); inward (ic); parallel (pc).



FORMATIONS:

Normal facing up or facing front.
Reversed on own side or opposite side, top cu at bottom, etc.
Up-in-fours lines of four facing up 2nd and 4th cu between 1st and 3rd respectively. Also in reversed formations.
Hands-on-shoulders partners face same way and place inside hands on partner's shoulder. Usual in Up-in-fours.

"Reversed" comes from Inside, Outside, No. 3 or half of In-and-Out, Lead-them-round.

"Up-in-fours" arises from Turn-round or after polka, in which No.'s 1,2,5,6 make a small cast-off in last 2 bars of polka. In this formation can do step-up, polka, No. 1 sequences, No. 2, and the Mossleys.

FIGURES

No stereotyped order, No. 4 always final figure. Each figure preceded usually by step-up or step-up & polka. Usually start with inside foot. When in up-in-fours formation start with step-up-&-back & polka, then a No. 1 figure and then No. 2; with a Mossley figure sometimes as well or instead. In up-in-fours figures all start same foot.

There are two families of figures, the stepping and the polka. The polka step figures are those of the standard N.W. morris and there are versions of all the figures given by Howison and Bentley.

INTRODUCTORY MOVEMENTS:

Step-up: step-up and step-back sequence done twice. Slings can be lpc rpc / lpc oc / oc oc / oc oc / done twice.
Polka: in any formation. 8 bars of polka step, perhaps changing formation at the end.

POLKA FIGURES:

Swing Partners:

Partners put right arms round others waist and turn clockwise, twisting slings in free hands (8 bars).

Swing-Partners-&-Back:

as above but 4 bars each way.

Hands Across:

Hands across in 4's, once round with right hand in (4 bars) and polka to end of phrase (4 bars).

Hands-Across-&-Back:

Right hands across and back with left (8 bars).

Right-and-Left:

In 4's - 1st corners cross by left, making $\frac{1}{2}$ turn clockwise, while others polka on spot - 2nd corners cross - repeat.

One-Half:

1st cu face down, hands-on-shoulders, move down to 2nd cu' place. 2nd cu move up, turn to face down, hands-on-shoulders. Polka facing down till end of phrase (4 bars). 1st cu separate and cast up to places while 2nd cu go down middle, all turn to face up in hands-on-shoulders; polka to end of phrase (4 bars).

Outside:

1st cu turn out and single-cast down outside of their rows followed by rest to the bottom. Polka to end of phrase (8 bars).

Inside:

1st cu turn in and go down middle of set to bottom followed by rest. Polka to end (8 bars). Can be done with hands-on-shoulders. Both figures can be started from the reversed position. This figure often followed by figures in the hand-on-shoulder position, i.e. No. 1 figs., No. 2 or the Mossleys.

Lead-Them-Round:

Odds led by no. 1 cross over and go down outside of even file, while evens, led by no. 2 cross over and move half way round anticlock - this reverses set and changes sides - all facing polka to end (8 bars). Repeat to place, odds outside evens again.

In-and-Out:

Each file does progressive straight hey starting at top, giving hands in passing. Top cu inside 1st. All face down at $\frac{1}{2}$ way and polka to end of phrase (8 bars). Repeat to place. 2nd half of this and previous figure usually preceded by a step-up-and-back and perhaps other figures.

STEPPING FIGURES:Number-Two:

No. 2 done 4 times, always immediately after any of the No. 1 figures.

One-Number-One:

No. 1 moving forward (2 bars), step-up (2 bars), no. 1 moving backwards (2 bars), polka backwards to place (2 bars).

Two-Number-Ones:

No. 1 moving forward slightly (2 bars), repeat (2 bars), step-up moving forward very slightly (2 bars), polka back (2 bars).

Three-Number-Ones:

No. 1 3 times moving slightly forward (6 bars), step-up (2 bars). No. 1 3 times moving slightly backwards (6 bars), polka back (2 bars).

Advance-No. 2-Turn-Round:

No. 1 towards partner (2bars), polka backwards to place (2 bars). No. 1 towards partner again (2 bars), polka in this position placing both hands on partners shoulders (2 bars). Evens reverse feet to odds. Then No. 2 (8 bars). Move back to place making whole turn downwards, with 2 steps, swinging free leg back on middle beats (2 bars) - slings = oc. Step-up towards partner (2 bars). Move back to place taking whole turn up. (2 bars). Step-up facing up (2 bars).

Single-Mossley:

Mossley forward (2 bars); step-back (2 bars); Mossley forward (2 bars); polka back to place (2 bars).

Double-Mossley:

Mossley 4 times (8 bars).

Cross-Sides:

Partners cross over left shoulders making complete turn clockwise on own axis. Repeat back also passing left (4 bars). Use either No. 1 or Mossley step sequence to precede it.

Cross-Sides-&-Go-Round-Him:

Cross-sides as above (4 bars). Evens polka in position facing up while odds do cross-sides round their partners, moving round them counter-clockwise (4 bars). Cross-sides again (4 bars). Odds polka in position facing up, while evens do cross-sides round them counter-clockwise.

Number-Three:

Similar to inside-with-hands-on-shoulders. Step-up forward (2 bars). Cast in to bottom, stepping thus:- polka (2 bars), caper twice with oc (1 bar), polka (1 bar), caper twice with oc (1 bar), polka (1 bar). Can be danced from reversed position. Often done immediately after Outside and followed by No. 1 figures, No. 2 or Mossley figures in hands-on-shoulders position.

Number-Four:

oc throughout, 1 to a bar.

| | | |
|---------|---|---|
| BARS | odds face up, evens down | move backwards, odds down, evens up |
| (1-4) | r. Ω r. l. / r. Ω r. l. / sideways to left to change places passing back-to-back | r. / l. / |
| | $\frac{1}{2}$ turn clock, odds face down, evens up | |
| (5-8) | r. Ω r. l. / r. Ω r. l. / sideways to left to own side passing back-to-back | r. / l. / backwards, odds up, evens down |
| (9-12) | face front r. / tap l toe / | l. / tap r toe / |
| (13-16) | complete turn downwards r. / l. / make small circle | front tap l / |
| (17-20) | complete turn upwards l. / r. / | front tap r / |
| (21-36) | repeat from beginning to complete, turn downwards which ends with a spring from right to left foot and a deliberate tap of right foot on middle beat of last bar. | |

ROYTON PROCESSIONAL

A MUSIC:- 16 walking steps forwards.

slings = lps rps / lps rps / lps ic / oc oc / repeated.

B MUSIC:- 4 choices - dancers progress throughout.

(a) Turn Round - slings = oc throughout.

Complete inward turn with 2 spring-steps, 4 walking steps forward, complete outward turn with 2 spring steps, 4 walking steps forward.

(b) Mossley

As (a) but Mossley sequence forward instead of turns.

(c) Mossley-and-Cross

As (b) but partners change places with polka steps, right hand file passing in front, instead of walking steps.

(d) Cross - polka step throughout.

Partners change places, right hand file in front, making whole turn inward (2 bars); polka forward (2 bars); change back, etc.

CENTRES:

Their normal position is between the end couples. If they are in the way they move a little way from the set and turn to face it. If the set reverses the centres change ends down the middle. In No. 4 bottom centre goes up middle to top and the two centres make a 5th couple at the top.

TUNES:

"Rush-Cart Lads" for processional dance.

"Cross Morris" - mis-called Nancy Dawson - for No. 4.

Figures not associated with any particular tunes. The favourite one was "Girl I Left Behind Me" but this was varied with "British Grenadiers", "Campbells are Coming", "Wearing of the Green", "Susannah and the Rose Tree". Scottish tunes were popular at the turn of the century - however if used today would give the wrong idea to the public.