

COTTON EYED JOE

(United States)

Cotton-Eyed Joe is truly a dance of the folk. In the Southwest, it has as many variants as the old folk song to which it is danced.

MUSIC: Record: Imperial 1045, 6045; Folkraft 1124, 1470, 1035

FORMATION: Cpls anywhere on the floor, in closed pos, M back to ctr.

STEPS AND STYLING: Polka*, Heel-toe polka*, Push Step*. NOTE: Although done in polka rhythm, the hop is omitted in these polka steps.

Feet are shuffled in Western style.

This dance may be done smoothly, or with flair, depending upon the mood of the dancer,

When hands are free, M may place thumbs in his belt under the buckle, or clasp hands behind back. W hold skirt at both sides.

*Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, Rm. 213, San Francisco, California 94103.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION: Length may vary, depending upon record used.

I. HEEL-TOE POLKA AND TURN AWAY

1-2 Dance one heel-toe polka step to ML-WR (LOD).

3-4 Without changing hand pos, so that ML-WR arms are extended twd rear (LOD), dance one heel-toe polka to MR-WL (RLOD).

5-8 Release hands. Turn away from ptr and describe a small individual circle (M-CCW, W-CW) with 4 polka steps. Finish facing ptr, M back to ctr.

II. PUSH AND POLKA

1-2 M with thumbs in belt, W holding skirt, dance 4 push steps twd ML-WR (LOD). Keep ft close to floor.

3-4 Dance 4 push steps in opp direction (RLOD).

5-8 Take closed pos and beginning ML-WR, dance 4 polka steps turning CW and progressing in LOD.

Repeat dance from beginning.