

Jig Circle

(Norway)

This is a very popular dance in the schools in Norway. I have been unable to find out anything about the origins of the dance. It is said to be Scottish, but I suspect that it originated in Scandinavia. The attraction of the dance is that it can be done as a “round.”

Pronunciation:

Music: Usually done in Norway to Jimmy Shand’s recording of Scottish Reform on the LP “Step we Gaily,” PCS 3007, EMI Records, 1960. The melodies are “Prince of Wales’ Jig” and “Kenmuir’s on and awa’.” Only the first part of the track is used, for it is far too long for this dance.

I often use any jig, reel, or polka that the musicians can play. The dance works best to a jig, but is OK with the other kinds of music.

Rhythm: 6/8 or 2/4 meter (counted 1-2 in the description below).

Formation: A circle of people facing center.

Meas

Pattern

PART I

- 1 Walking twd ctr, step on R (ct 1); step on L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R twd ctr (ct 1); kick L fwd (ct 2).
- 3 Walking bkwd from ctr, step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct 2).
- 4 Step bkwd on L (ct 1); leap onto ball of R ft in place (ct ah); step on L (ct 2).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

PART II

- 1 Straighten L knee and stamp R without wt (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 2 Bend L knee, lift R knee and clap hands (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 3-8 Repeat meas 1-2. On last ct, transfer wt to R as you clap.

PART III

- 1-4 8 slides sideways to L: step on L to L (ct 1); leap onto ball of R ft beside L (ct ah); repeat (cts 2, ah). On last slide, change ft by leaving out leap onto R.
- 5-8 8 slides sideways to R.

The dance is usually performed as a round. Divide the group into 1s, 2s, and 3s, counting 1-2-3 around the circle to the L. (It is important to count to the L (CW), so that those sliding can easily find their original place.)

The 1s start, i.e., every third person. When the 1s start part II, the 2s start the dance with part I. When the 1s start part III, the 2s dance part II, and the 3s start part I. After this, everyone does the dance in sequence. Every third person is doing the same thing. And a third of the people are doing each part of the dance at any given time.

Jig Circle—continued

Those sliding go BEHIND the rest of the circle.

Note: Some groups do parts I and II on opp ft. This works just as well. It is not even necessary for everyone to be on the same ft, but everyone must dance first to the L in part III.

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