

The Crested Hen

Record available: His Masters Voice B2707 (Cochin China)

Formation. Trio, one man between two ladies.

Figure 1. (a) Joining hands in a circle, and starting with a stamp, the trio circles to the left with 8 step-hops, kicking the free foot forward, straight-legged Bars 1-8
(b) The same, to the right Bars 1-8

Figure 2. (a) The two ladies release each other's hands, but retain handhold with the man who raises the hand of the lady on his left to form an arch, under which the other (right hand) lady passes, step-hopping. The man follows, turning beneath his own arm Bars 9-12
(b) The left hand lady now dances under the right hand arch, the man following Bars 13-16

Figure 2 is now repeated.

Notes. I have seen this dance done by alternately walking through the complete sequence in half time, then step-hopping through in normal time. Also interesting (but I don't know how authentic, and you'll need live music, as it can't be done to the record) is the version in which the dance is first walked at an exaggerated funeral march tempo; then at a fairly brisk walk; then step-hopped at the usual tempo; and lastly step-hopped just as fast as the musicians can play.



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