

GAE GORDONS

GIE GORDONS (Scotland)



The *Gie* (or *Gay*) *Gordons* is one of those perfect couple folk dances that everybody likes and anybody can do. It is an old-time dance of Scottish origin and is a standard favorite on folk dance programs.

OPENING FORMATION: Couples in circle formation, all facing counterclockwise. Lady to right of man, in Varsovienne position, as in Diagram 1.

PART 1: Both start on left foot and take 4 walking steps forward, in the line of direction (Diagram 1).

Without dropping hands, half-turn to the right to face the other way. Man now has left arm around the lady's shoulder, lady standing to man's left (see Diagram 2). Starting with the left foot, take 4 walking steps backward, still in the line of direction.

Without turning around, both start on left foot and take 4 walking steps forward in clockwise direction (Diagram 3).

Without dropping hands, turn half around to the left to face original direction (counterclockwise). Man's right arm is now around lady's shoulder. Starting on the left foot, all take 4 walking steps

backward, against the line of direction (Diagram 4).

NOTE: On the last of the 4 walking steps, the lady does not put her full weight down on right foot, but barely touches it to the ground so that it will be free to start the next figure. Or she may take 2 walking steps followed by a step-together-step which will leave her right foot free.

PART 2: Partners hold right hands only, with free hands on hips. Lady turns to own right (clockwise), under joined hands, with 4 two-steps or polka steps, as man moves forward behind her with 4 of the same steps (Diagram 5).

Take ballroom position and do four polka or two-steps around the circle (Diagram 6).

NOTE: If the man gives only one finger to the lady during the right-hand hold in PART 2, and the lady holds that finger with her fist, it will be easier for her to turn.

Scots love to shout "khookh" as they dance, and dancers should be encouraged to give forth this low, guttural sound spontaneously to add to the fun.