

GROSSER ACHTERRUM

GROSSER ACHTERRUM (GROH-sair AHK-ter-room)  
(Nordheide, Germany)

This is an old, traditional dance that was introduced by Gretel and Paul Dunsing at the 1957 College of Pacific Folk Dance Camp at Stockton, CA. The dance gets its name from the second part of the Chorus. "Achtarrum" means "hinter herum" or "going behind." In a sense, dancers here go around one another. This is a native dance of the heather country in the North German province of Hannover. It was taught to the Dunsings by their German friends of the "Ringfur Heimattanz" (ring or club for homeland dances) in Hamburg.

Music: Record: Folk Dancer MH 1128. Tanz EP 58108 A2. 2/4 meter

Formation: Cpls in a large circle facing ctr, W to R of M with all hds joined at shoulder level.

Steps: Step-Hop: One Step-Hop per measure: Step on L (ct 1), hop on L (ct 2). Repeat on R. (Note: The Dunsings' term for this is "Hopstep"). Schottische: Two meas to complete one Schottische step: 3 walking steps fwd, LRL (cts 1,2,1) slight hop on L (ct 2). Repeat starting on R.  
Note: Step-Hops are used during the Figures (meas 1-8 with repeats), and the Schottische step is used throughout the Chorus (meas 9-16, 9-16 repeated and 17-32).

Meas Pattern

cts 2, &  
meas 1-4 INTRODUCTION. (Dancers stand in circle formation)

I. CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT.

A 1-8 All circle L (CW) with 8 Step-Hops.

1-8(rptd) Repeat 8 Step-Hops, moving circle to R (CCW).

CHORUS

B 9-16 Cpls in slightly open ballroom pos, M with back to ctr, and joined hds (ML, WR) pointing in LOD, begin on outside ft (ML, WR) and move fwd CCW with 4 Schottische steps. On second Schottische step, extended arms are flexed at elbows to bring hands twd chest. On third step, return arms to original pos. On fourth step, W moves in front of M to end facing RLOD, while M faces LOD.

9-10 Grand Left and Right: Give L hand to ptr and move fwd passing ptr by L shoulder with one Schottische step.

11-12 Give R hand to next person and move fwd with one Schottische step, passing R shoulders.

13-14 Give L hand to next person and move fwd with one Schottische step as before.

15-16 With one Schottische step, move fwd to fourth person with R hand, taking this person as new ptr.

C 17-32 In slightly open ballroom pos, repeat action of meas 9-16 and 9-16 (repeated).

*Continued...*

GROSSER ACHTERRUEM (continued)II. RIGHT AND LEFT HAND TOURS

- A 1-8 With new ptr, join R hands at eye level, elbows bent, and turn CW in small circle with 8 Step-Hops. Free hand on hip.  
 1-8 (rptd) Change to L hand, and repeat 8 Step-Hops turning CCW.  
 BC 32 meas CHORUS: Repeat action of Chorus (meas 9-16, 9-16 repeated, and 17-32).

III. TWO HAND TOURS.

- A 1-8 Join both hands ~~with new ptr~~ with new ptr, and move CW in small circle with 8 Step-Hops. *slightly higher and rounded*  
 1-8 (rptd) Reverse direction, moving CCW in small circle with 8 Step-Hops.  
 BC 32 meas CHORUS: Repeat action of Chorus (meas 9-16, 9-16 repeated, and 17-32).

IV. BACK HAND TURN.

- A 1-8 With new ptr assume Back-Hold pos\*, and move fwd in small circle turning CW with 8 Step-Hops.  
 1-8 (rptd) Without changing hand grip, move bkwd in small circle, turning CCW with 8 Step-Hops.  
 BC 32 meas CHORUS: Repeat action of Chorus (meas 9-16, 9-16 repeated, and 17-32).

V. CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT.

- A 1-8 Repeat action of Fig. I  
 1-8 (rptd)

\* Back-Hold pos: Hook R elbows and allow R hand to hold ptrs L hand in middle of his back.

Presented by Gretel Dunsing