

MALHÃO
Portugal

Malhão (Mahl-ow) was learned by Dean and Nancy Linscott from films of a group directed by Manuel Duarte Pereira Vale, from Vila Nova de Gaia in Northwest Portugal. The dance has been preserved in essentially the same form for more than 100 years, and the song that goes with it tells about a lazy character (the malhão) who never worked, but led an easy life of singing, dancing, eating and drinking. It was presented by Dean and Nancy Linscott at the 1978 Mendocino Folklore Camp.

RECORD: Festival (EP) 501

FORMATION: Cpls in a line, ptrs facing about 4 ft apart. M L shldr twd music, hands relaxed and free at sides.

STEPS & STYLING: Steps are described for M, W reverse ftwk and direction.

Arms: Swing hands and arms up naturally to clap own hands together about face level and then swing down free at sides when finished.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: Stand in place. Dance begins after 1-1/2 cts of vocal.

FIG. I: Fwd and Bkwd (Described for M, W reverse ftwk.)
1-2 Step fwd on L (ct 1), step on R beside or slightly ahead of L (ct 2), step L in place (ct &). Step bkwd on R (ct 1), step bkwd on L (ct 2), step in place on R (ct &). Clap own hands together fwd at about face ht, 3 times (meas 1, cts 2,& - meas 2, ct 1). Drop hands back down at sides after clapping.
3-8 Repeat meas 1-2, 3 more times (4 total).

FIG. II: Turn (Described for M, W reverse ftwk and turn)
9-10 Bring arms up so that elbows are about shldr ht and hands about head ht, elbows sticking straight out to sides, turn once CW (W-CCW) in place: Step on L across R (ct 1), step R,L (cts 2,&). Step on R completing turn (ct 1), bringing hands down to sides, step bwd (away from ptr) on L (ct 2), step fwd (into place) on R (ct &).

11-12 Repeat Fig. I, meas 1-2.
13-16 Repeat meas 9-12, once more.

Repeat dance from beginning.

Presented by Dean & Nancy Linscott
San Diego Statewide 1979