

MAYPOLE DANCE (England)

The description here is of an English Maypole Dance, although this record may be used for any of the many variations.

OPENING FORMATION: Double circle, all facing counterclockwise. Girls on partners' right, inside hands joined.

PART 1: All couples skip forward around the circle for 8 measures (16 beats, Theme 1).

Finish skipping by facing maypole in a *single* circle (girls still on the right) with all hands joined.

PART 2: All skip forward 4 steps and back 4, swinging joined hands up and down. Repeat.

PART 3: Partners face each other, join right hands (the girl holding her skirt in her left hand), and turn with 16 skips, ending with girl's back to pole.

PART 4: Boys place both hands on own hips, girls lift skirts with both hands, and all take one polka-step to the right (step-close, step).

Hop on right foot (placing left foot forward) and hop *again* on right foot (placing left toe behind right heel).

All take one polka-step to the *left* and 2 similar hops on *left* foot.

Repeat **PART 4**.

PART 5: With right hands again joined, partners turn each other in place with 8 polka-steps, finishing in the single-circle formation (as in **PART 1**).

PART 6: All skip around the circle counterclockwise, 16 steps.

PART 7: Again, all skip forward 4 steps and back 4, swinging hands.

Repeat.

PART 8: With 4 skipping steps, first couple goes to the maypole, where both boy and girl take a ribbon in the right hand.

Returning to place with 4 skipping steps, they face each other in the single circle (the boy facing counterclockwise).

Each succeeding couple skips to the pole in turn and returns to place until all hold ribbons and boys are facing counterclockwise, girls clockwise.

PART 9: With skipping steps, all do a "Grand Chain," similar to a "grand right and left," but not using hands:

Pass partner by the right shoulder, pass the next person by the *left* shoulder, and so on, around the circle, *lifting ribbons over and under*.

Move around the circle twice or until the pole is plaited as far as desired.

PART 10: All join hands and again skip forward 4 steps, *drop ribbons*, and skip back 4. Repeat skipping figure.

PART 11: In single-circle formation, all skip once around the pole (*clockwise*), ending the dance.

NOTE: After the "Grand Chain," advanced groups may enjoy reversing direction to *snare* the ribbons.

The dance may also be ended by the first boy dropping the hand of the girl on his left (the last girl) and leading the line away from the pole.

