

# The Shepherd's Crook

Presented by Mary Ann Herman

The Shepherd's Crook was introduced to us at Folk Dance House by Bruce McClure of Scotland. Since the music was not recorded he suggested the record for Glasgow Highlander's be used because it has the two chords necessary in the first part. There are many records available for the Glasgow Highlanders including a 10" one. However the two best ones are the LP MY Scotland Album on Capitol and the 12" HMV record.

FORMATION: Sets of three people, one boy and 2 girls, all facing front.  
First Chord: All bow, hands are at sides ( ladies curtsey)  
Second Chord: About face to Right and join hands.

PART 1: With hands joined at shoulder level do 4 strathspey (slow motion polka) steps down the hall, turning Right on the 4th step.  
Rejoin hands and come up to place with 4 strathspey steps.

Part 2: GLASGOW HIGHLANDER STEP: With hands joined all step hop forward on Right foot. Step back on Left foot and hop on it. Take 3 steps now by placing Right foot behind Left. Step to side on Left foot. Step forward on Right slightly crossed in front of Left.  
Step hop forward on Left foot. Step back on Right foot and Hop. Take 3 steps, Left behind Right. Right to Side. Left in front of Right. Repeat the above steps again of Part 2.



PART 3: CROOK: Right hand lady sweeps forward with 1 strathspey step, then under arch formed by other couple as man follows her through arch, with another strathspey step and all get into original place with 3rd strathspey step. On the 4th step, the Left hand turns in place. Now the Left hand lady goes under arch, and on the 4th step the Right hand lady turns in place and assumes ballroom position with man.

PART 4: HIGHLAND SCHOTTISCHE: Man with Right hand lady does Schottische: Man starts with Left foot, lady with Right foot. Point toe to side, bring it up in back. Point toe to side, bring it up in front. then both do a strathspey sideways to man's Left, lady's Right. Now repeat all with other foot and in other direction.  
Join both hands at shoulder level and turn ONCE in place with 4 strathspey steps...with man finishing to face Left hand lady. Repeat the same figure with Left hand lady and man finishes facing Right hand partner. DO NOT RUSH THE TURN .



PART 5: FIGURE EIGHT OR REEL OF THREE. Travel along an imaginary figure 8 on the floor. Man starts by passing Left shoulder with Right hand partner. The Left hand lady waits slightly "to get into the set" and passes Right shoulder with the approaching lady. Continue making loops passing alternate shoulder until all are back in place.

NOW WE COME to the various Highland steps, take a deep brace, hold your breath, turn the page and get set for the challenging part of the dance.....



SHEPHERD'S CROOK (dance directions continued)

PART 6: Touch Right toe to right side.  
Bring Right foot behind Left in back  
Bring Right foot in front  
Bring Right foot in back

AT THE SAME TIME hop on Left foot.

Now shift weight and do 4 "toe heels" in place, Left foot, Right, Left, Right. (hopping)

Now shift weight and touch Left toe to side and TURN to the RIGHT as Left foot is put in front, then in back, then in front.

Touch Left toe to left side  
Bring Left foot behind Right in back  
Bring Left foot in front  
Bring Left foot in back.

AT THE SAME TIME hop on Right foot

Shift weight and do 4 "toe heels in place, Right, Left, Right, Left.

Now touch Right toe to side and TURN LEFT as Right foot goes in back, front, back.

PART 7: Circle Left with 8 strathspey steps.

PART 8: Face front in a straight line and do the following step:

Touch Right toe to side. Bring right foot up in back, front, back.  
Do the above step 3 times.

Turn Left by touching Right foot to side and doing the back, front, back kick as you turn.

Now with the Left foot, touch Left toe to side, then do the back, front, back, with the Right foot TWICE.

Now turn RIGHT TWICE with the Right foot doing a touch, back, front, back, touch, back, front, back.

Finish with a long step to Right and bow.

Scottish dances require quite precise footwork and a shoe without a heel and soft shoe is almost imperative for proper execution of the steps. Some effort should be made to try to get the proper "strathspey" step it makes a world of difference in the style of the dance. Free hands are held at sides in Scottish dances. We suggest as reference for footwork and style the various handbooks on Scottish dance of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in Edinburgh.

