

~~SHER~~  
~~SCHERR~~  
(Jewish)

The Scherr is the Jewish prototype of the American square dance. It is very popular in European Jewish circles as well as in the United States. The music for the dance has that unique quality inherent in Jewish folk music. Paralleling the music the dance is performed with a light, bouncing shuffle. The Scherr, as known by the San Francisco Bay Area folk dancers, stems from the Russian Jews. (HG)

Music Record Col. 20322F  
Piano Dorothy LaSalle Rhythms and Dances for Elementary Schools  
F. V. Beliajus Dance and Be Merry Vol. II.

Formation A square formation as in an American square dance.

Steps Shuffle step, Buzz step may be used in swinging partner.

Music	Step Pattern
Measure 1-8	I. <u>Introductory Figure: Circle L and R and Cross Over</u> --All join hands shoulder high and circle L with 7 shuffle steps, stamp on 8th ct., reverse direction and circle R 8 to original places. (shuffle step: feet shuffle along the floor--the steps are short and danced with a bouncing movement.)
9-12	Partners join inside hands. Couples 1 and 3 exchange places, couple 1 going under raised arms of couple 3 (4 cts.); couples 2 and 4 exchange places, couple 2 going under raised arms of couple 4 (4 cts.).
13-16	Couples 1 and 3, then couples 2 and 4 return to places in same manner, couples 1 and 2 forming the arches (8 cts.).
1-4	II. <u>Visiting and Swing Opposites</u> --M 1 and 2 advance toward each other (2 cts.) honor and step back (2 cts.); make a complete L turn passing each other and moving to opposite places (4 cts.).
5-8	Take Hungarian waist position or double arm grasp with opposite W and turn with shuffle or buzz steps (8 cts.).
9-16	M 1 and 2 repeat Visiting and return to swing own partners.  Figure II is repeated by M 1 with couples 3 and 4 in turn.

The Introductory Figure (Circle L and R and Cross Over) is repeated and followed by M 2, 3, and 4 each visiting in turn, alternating with the Introductory Figure. The dance may be continued by the W visiting in same manner. . . . .

After the last visiting figure all join hands in circle; circle L (8 cts.); R (8 cts.); and M 1 drops hand of W 4. M 1 leads the line under the arched arms of couple 4. M 4 does not turn under own arm, but faces the front of the line, his own R arm across his chest over his L shoulder. W 4 also faces the front of the line and places her R hand on her partner's R shoulder, her L being held in his R hand. Leader (M 1) then leads line under the arch in front of couple 4. This continues until the entire line is in a chain, each person with his R arm across his chest, and holding over his own L shoulder the R hand of the person behind him. Leader leads the line, at will, around the room.

Line may then unwind and repeat dance or, as has become customary in the Federation, begin the Sarba.