

SOLAISAI NA BEALTAINÉ

SWEETS OF MAY

Sweets of May has all of the typical characteristics of an Irish dance. Comes from Northern Ireland. Was introduced in U.S. by Sean and Una O'Parrell.

Record: National N4514A (4/4 time).

Steps: 7's and 3's, skip change of step.

Formation: Four couples in square dance formation, numbered CCW.

Pattern in brief:

1. 7's and 3's to L and R, then to R and L. Chorus
2. Promenade. Chorus
3. Arches. Chorus.
4. Thread the needle. Chorus.
5. 7's and 3's to L and R, then to R and L.

7's and 3's

Always step back on ct 1. This step can be done moving to the L by stepping on the R ft on ct 1 as well as moving to the R gy stepping on the L ft on ct 1. Weight on L ft, swing R back of L and step on R (ct 1), step L to L (ct 2), step R behind L (ct 3), step L to L (ct 4), step R behind L (ct 5), step L to L (ct 6), step R behind L (ct 7), hop on R (ct 8). Step L behind R (ct 1), step R in place (ct 2), step L in place (ct 3), hop on L (ct 4). Step R behind L (ct 1), step L in place (ct 2), step R in place (ct 3). This completes on 7's and 3's moving to the L. To move R, just reverse the above step pattern.

Skip change of Step

(Three in jig time) Step fwd R (ct 1), close L to R heel (ct 2), step fwd R (ct 3), hop on R (ct 4). Step fwd L (ct 1), close R to L heel (ct 2), step fwd L (ct 3), hop on L (ct 4).

PATTERN

I.

Meas.

- 1-4 Moving L, stepping with R ft behind L, do one 7's and 3's step.
Moving R back to place do another 7's and 3's step.
Moving R with a 7's and 3's step. Weight is on the L ft at the end of last 3's so push off on R toe (ct 8), step L behind R (ct 1) to start the 7's and 3's.
- 5-8 Move L back to starting place with 7's and 3's step.

CHORUS

- 1-2 Use skip change of step when moving; when standing in place dance a 3's. Couples 1 and 3 exchange places with 2 skip change of step. Hold inside hand, M will pass L shoulders in the center of the square as they crossover.
- 3-4 Couples 1 and 3 turn in toward your partner to reverse directions as couples 2 and 4 exchange places with 2 skip change of step.
- 5-6 Couples 1 and 3 return home, W pass L shoulders in the center of the square.
- 7-8 Couples 2 and 4 return home.
- 9-10 Couples 1 and 3 fwd with 2 skip change of step and they back out with 2 skip change of step.
- 11-12 Couples 2 and 4 repeat action of meas 9-10.
- 13-14 Couples 1 and 3 move fwd with 2 skip change of steps as couples 2 and 4 back out with 2 skip change of step. (Cont'd next page)

SWEETS OF MAY (Cont'd)

- 15-16 Couples 2 and 4 do 3's in place as couples 1 and 3 back up with 2 skip change of step.
- 17-18 All face center. Clap thighs twice, own hands twice, clap thighs twice, own hands twice.
- 19-20 Change places with partner, W passes in front of M, with a 7's and 3's step. (M step L behind R to start the 7's and 3's and W step R behind L.).
- 21-24 Repeat claps and change places with partner. This time M passes in front of W.

II.

- 1-16 PROMENADE: Partners facing CCW, hands joined, promenade around with 7 skip change of step. On 8 turn in toward your partner to reverse LOD. Repeat promenade CW, ending in starting place, facing center on 8th meas.
- 1-24 Chorus.

III.

- 1-8 ARCHES: Couples 1 and 3 face the couples on their R (1 faces 2, and 3 faces 4.) Head couples (1 & 3) arch over the side couples for 2 skip change of step, changing places. Turn in toward your partner for 2 skip change of step to reverse direction. Couples 2 and 4 arch high with couples 1 and 3 going under the arch back to home. Turn in toward your partner for 2 skip change of step to end facing center.
- 9-16 Repeat arches, couples 1 and 3 face the couple on their L. The head couples always arch first.
- 1-24 Chorus.

IV.

- 1-16 THREAD THE NEEDLE: Join hands in a circle with a break between #1 M and #4 W. Couple 1 arches and W #4 leads the line under the arch, around in circle and home (do not let go of hands). Couple 4 arches and M #1 leads line under arch and home.
- 1-24 Chorus.

V

- 1-16 Repeat figure I.

Brought by Rodolfo Ulibarri as
learned from Madelyne Greene.