

THE KERRY REEL

(Ireland)

An Irish Reel for Three people (1 man and 2 women)

The dance was taught to Madelynne Greene by Maureen Hall, noted authority on Irish dancing in Cork, Ireland. Mrs. Hall is now residing in California.

RECORD: My Ireland - Capitol T10028, Side 2, Band 3 - "Snow on the Mountains" or any Irish Reel. Lift needle at end of dance as there is more music than needed, or repeat dance until music ends.

FORMATION: Trios face audience, man stands between the two women. Their hands are joined above shoulder height, women's free hands are held at sides. Woman at R is #1, Woman at L is #2.

STEPS: Throughout the dance the basic steps will be "Sevens" and "Threes". Sometimes only "Sevens" will be danced to a phrase, sometimes only "Threes" and sometimes a combination of "Sevens" and "Threes".

"Sevens" to the Left:

Begin weight on L. Swing R ft around behind L (ct "and") step on R behind L placing weight on R (ct. 1), on ct "and" step on L ft (ct. 2) (R in back) L to side continue counting 7 changes of weight in all R,L,R,L,R,L,R, rest.

"Sevens" to the Right:

Swing L ft around behind R accenting and stepping on L for ct 1 then step to R, ct. 2, L in back for ct. 3 etc, so it will be L,R,L,R,L,R,L, rest.

"Threes" are danced like a small pas-de-bas step with a tiny leap on first count. Thus: Leap onto R (toes turned out) (ct.1) cross L and step on L (ct. 2) again on R (ct. 3) repeat to L.

When traveling fwd on "Threes" leap fwd on R, bring L in front for ct. 2 and draw R up to L for ct. 3 (toes always turned outward).

Knees are always relaxed on accenting counts so the dancer "sinks" into the accenting step.

ARMS: At any time when not holding hands with another dancer the arms for both men and women are held quietly at the sides, inside edge of the wrist close to the body, the palm facing back. Arms should always be relaxed but controlled and should not separate from the body.

When hands are held they should be lifted high so arms form almost a straight line from shoulder to elbow. Elbow almost touch partner's elbow. A tall straight, good posture is important at all times.

Dancers keep dancing threes in place whenever waiting in place for next step. Do not stand still while waiting.

DIAGRAMS:

∧ = man facing audience	⌒ = lady facing audience
< = man facing Left	(= lady facing Left
> = man facing Right) = lady facing Right
∨ = man with back to audience	⌝ = lady with back to audience

MUSIC 2/4

P A T T E R N

INTRODUCTION: Wait 8 measures with R toe pointed on floor in front of dancer.

Diagrams
Audience

I. LEAD OUT

Meas.

- 1-4 All dance fwd (downstage) twds audience 4 "Threes" R,L,R,L.
- 5-6 Ladies make complete turn (inward) under joined hands with man, dancing 2 "Threes" on the spot as man dances in place.
- 7-8 Ladies change places with 2 "Threes", R lady under arch, man following R lady under his own R arm and making 1/2 turn. All end backs to audience.
- 9-16 Repeat meas. 1-8 dancing (upstage) with backs to audience, returning to original places. This time lady #2 going under arch as man follows her.

II. SEVENS IN A "FILE"

Meas.

- 1-4 Drop hands to sides - all dance "Sevens" to the L
- 5-8 Dance "Sevens" to the R to original places.
- 9-12 All make 1/4 turn to R and dance "Sevens" to audience
- 13-16 Dance "Sevens" to R (returning to original places).
- 1-8 Make a 1/4 turn to R (back will be to audience) and dance "Sevens" to L and "Sevens" to R (back home)
- 9-16 Make a 1/4 turn to R and dance "Sevens" to L and "Sevens" to R (moving away from audience and then home to place. All face fwd at end.

III. CHAIN

- All dance "Threes" for this figure.
- Man dances clockwise with lady #1 holding her R hand, then goes to lady #2 and dances CCW with her holding L hand, then back to lady #1 ending in a triangle pattern on the floor, still holding her by the R hand. Lady #2 will turn slightly to R to prepare for next figure.
- (Man forms the point of the triangle a little in advance of the two ladies).

IV. ARCHES IN A TRIANGLE

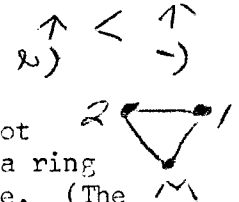
Meas.

- All dance "Threes" for this figure.
- 1-8 Lady #2 dances 2 "Threes" to go under arch, turns 1/2 turn R in place, 2 "Threes" then dances 2 "Threes" on the spot facing audience. Meanwhile the man holding lady #1's R hand (they stand R shoulders adjacent) dance 2 "Threes" on the spot (lady #2 goes through arch), then they draw elbows close together and dance 2 "Threes" to change places (lady #1 is dancing on the spot). Then again draw elbows close together and return to own place.
- 9-16 Repeat IV. 1-8 but man now forms R hand arch with lady #2. Hold lady #2's R hand at end of figure.

V. STAR

Meas.

- 1-4 Lady #1 now adds her R hand to the joined hands of man and lady #2 to form a 3-hand star. All dance 4 "Threes" around CW returning to original triangle places.
- 5-8 Man drops his hand and dances 4 "Threes" on the spot facing them while ladies continue dancing a two-hand circle, 4 "Threes" ending in original places.
- 9-16 Repeat V. reversing star - holding L hands and traveling CCW. At end of figure ladies turn to face R with L shoulders to audience and man makes a 1/4 turn right to end with R shoulder to audience.

VI. MAN SPLITS THE LINE

Meas.

- 1-4 * All dance "Sevens" to the L and 2 "Threes" on the spot turning to face center of triangle; join hands to form a ring and travel CCW "Sevens" (to the R) and "Threes" in place. (The ladies end on opp. sides, man at point of triangle).
- 9-16 Repeat exactly and at end of ring the ladies will be in original places facing audience and man will end with his back to audience.
- * Be careful not to travel far as hands are to be joined to form the circle).

VII. FORWARD AND BACK AND MAN FIGURE EIGHT

- All dance 16 "Threes".
- 1-4 Ladies travel fwd 2 "Threes" to audience (turn 1/2 to R) on spot (2).
- 5-8 Ladies travel fwd away from audience 2 "Threes" then 1/2 turn R on spot (2).
Ladies dance 8 in place facing audience.
Man at the same time dances 2 "Threes" away from audience (turns 1/2 to R on spot) 2 "Threes"
Then 2 "Threes" twds audience (turns to R 1/2 turn) 2 "Threes".
- 9-16 As ladies dance in place man goes fwd around lady #2 passing her by L shoulder and then dances over to go around lady #1 passing her by R shoulder and ends in center between ladies.

VIII. All dance the lead out again (Fig. I.)