

Neopolitan Tarantella

(Italy)

Music: V 25-7027 Or H 2051 or C 14345.

Source: Madelynn Greene learned this Tarantella from M. and M.A. Herman in New York City in 1959, who learned it from Italian natives. There are many forms of the Tarantella. This one contains the most commonly done figures.

Part I

Couples in a side-by-side position with the lady to the L of the M, all facing CCW. Hands are crossed behind each other's backs. Step on R ft and hop. Step-hop on L ft. Swing the free ft behind. Run lightly fwd R, L, R. Hop on R ft, swinging L ft behind. All this done moving diagonally fwd to the R. Now repeat all of this moving diagonally fwd to the L: Step-hop on L; step-hop on R; run fwd L, R, L, and hop on L ft. Repeat once more to R and L.

Part II

Face partner, W on inside. Do a "pas de basque" to own R and L, clapping own hands overhead, or striking tambourine. Do a three-quarter to own R, (R, L, R) finishing so that R hips are twds each other. Step sdwds on R ft. Bring L ft to R. Step sdwds on R ft and bump R hips. Turn to own L, (L, R, L, R) and face partner again. Do a pas de basque to L and R. Turn three-quarters L and finish with L hips twds partner. Step sdwds L. Close R to L ft. Step on L and bump L hips. Turn to own R (R, L, R, L).

Part III

Face partner. Clap own hands and pass partner with hands extended, R hands fwd, L hand flung behind you, using 4 step-hops on R ft. Turn R to face partner when you have exchanged places with 4 steps in place, L, R, L, R. Return to original places, same way but this time pass with L shoulders and hop on L ft. Repeat all of Part III again.

Part IV

"Flirting Figure": This figure has a lot of leeway. M turns in place by himself, snapping fingers, taking modified step-hops in place, improvising with his body, hands, feet in the Italian style, and flirting with partner. Lady moves to her L around the M, with a bkwd buzz step (R ft goes behind L ft), as she claps hands or tambourine at will.

Part V

Assume same position as in Part I, but just do a regular goose-kick step fwd.

Part VI

Repeat Part IV.

Part VII

Face partner. Clap own hands, exchange places with partner by running fwd. With R hand extended to put arm around partner's waist. Turn partly with partner, but then remove arm and twirl by yourself. Return to own place the same way, but extend L arm and turn the other way.

Repeat dance from beginning for length of record you select. Remember that there should be a very flirtatious lively, bubbly sort of mood and style in this dance.