

ALDERLEY EDGE

Source: taught by D Robinson at Sidmouth 1977, and at Bath Feb 1978.

Sticks: held in middle, horizontally at top of head level, each has 3/4 bells at each end & the sticks are shaken continuously by a horizontal rotation of 10/20 degs.


Step : hop step but not high knee, raise about half way on spring on supporting foot. Break : in last bar 2 exaggerated steps swinging foot forward - called 2 "kick-ups".

Kick-ups are not capers, must hop - just straighten leg in swing forward; = straight leg.

CHORUS: processional figure - taught as a stationary figure. Optional through dance.

1. Step on spot 8 bars
2. Cross Over, face straight across (4 bars), face up and step ending with 2 kick-ups (4 bars). On the street in the cross-over the odd side of the set go in front each time.
3. As 2 back to place, ending with 2 kick-ups as well.

Order of figures arbitrary

"Kick Up in 2's" - danced in 4's. 2 & 3 approach each other, 4 steps, & face up side by side in middle. On spot 4 kick-ups, turning round, first one facing up, second both facing to right of set, third both facing down, fourth both facing to left - that is each turn the same way, the same 2 take 4 steps out to place and all face up for last 4 steps. Inactives step on spot facing in for first 12 steps. All do 2 kick-ups in 8th bar. Repeat by 1 & 4. 


"Kick Up in 4's" - danced in 4's as a form of star. 4 steps in to make a right hand star, 4 kick-ups going round in star - outside hand up, stick horizontal and shaken - 4 steps out to place, face up for 2 steps and 2 kick-ups. Inside sticks up in bundle vertically in centre. The rotation in the star is just over half way round say 3/4. Repeat with left hand star.

"Outsides" - take 16 bars. Cast from top, with sticks up, and up middle to place. It is done twice through in succession.


On the road the top pair move out a little and step on the spot, letting the rest come up between and each pair falling out to side in turn till set reversed in order, then top pair (at bottom) lead up the middle, rest falling into place in turn.

"Walk" - another processional movement. Walk to centre of set, from odds side in front always, and walk up road in single file. After a while spread out to place. In stationary dance, having formed a single file, do single cast from top & up in column.

"Insides & Outsides" - done twice in 4's. 3&4 come up between 1&2 as 1&2 drop back stepping backwards into 3&4's places. 1&2 then up middle etc. 8 steps up and 8 back. 2 kick-ups only at very end of figure.

"Corners Cross" - all at once. Face across corner, all go to middle, slightly to the left so that all pass right shoulders in centre. Important to keep the initial relative order of dancers. 8 steps to cross, 8 steps facing up, 8 steps back, 6 steps & 2 kick-ups, facing up having passed left shoulders. 

"Insides" - opposite way round to Outsides - cast in or step in & let rest pass etc.

"Progressive Hay on sides" - top pair turn out, tap sticks at waist level on pass, sticks sloped up & outside sticks up. First pass is by right shoulder, at bottom go round to the right, when back in place step on spot facing up. There is an imaginary left turn at the top to allow going down to pass right again. Turn the easy way at the top, not an extra loop as in some other dances. 4 steps for each change (or pass) clash on the third 

"Outsides & Hay" - start as above but up in single file. The top dancer turns clockwise and starts a progressive hay in one long line all the way round. Mark time till ended, then all step out into column.

"Up in 4's" - In 4's, 2nd pair up between 1st, who cast out. Form a line of 4 in 4 steps and 4 kick-ups on spot. Continue to change places, 1st pair turning to face up for 2 steps & 2 kick-ups. Repeat to place 1st pair coming up middle & 2nd pair casting.