

# SIMPLE MODERN BORDER DANCE SET for SIDMOUTH WORKSHOP 1995

No. of Dancers	"Theme"	Source	Formation
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**THREE** - "SIMPLE REEL": development from Upton Snodsbury dance : 3 in line  
As recorded at a 1994 Sidmouth Border workshop.

Tune suggested : "*Yankee Doodle*"

Brief Notation :

Middle person sticks with right hand dancer and then the left: middle person dances a figure eight around the other two, going off in direction facing, and they move forward to meet and retire back to place twice, the middle naturally ends facing to their left: middle person sticks with left hand dancer and then the right: all three dance a reel for three, going off in the direction facing, with one extra change to swop their order. Repeat for multiple of three times, for all to lead.

**FOUR** - "GO ALL WAYS": development from a South Downs dance : 2 v 2

Tune suggested : "*Bonnie Dundee*"

Brief Notation :

*Chorus* : All hit stick tips on the ground once, pause, clash with opposite tips right to left, and left to right, dance own small circle outwards with single steps ending with a jump and clash with opposite. Repeat exactly.

*Figures* : Move off facing "forwards" but all turn at the end of the first bar to move backwards in that same direction, except for during the rounds, then move forwards retracing path in bars 3 and 4.

1. Rounds.
2. Move off to left, turn, back and clash, then to the right etc.:
3. Diagonals, move out away from centre first, turn, back and clash all together in centre, all pass right shoulders in centre to opposite diagonal place, turn back to face opposite and clash.
4. Repeat diagonals to place.
5. Cross over and back, etc.
6. Opposites move off to their sides away from neighbours, turn, back and clash with neighbour, then face out away from opposites, dance out with neighbour, turn, back and clash with opposite.
7. Whole rounds and off or all-in.

**FIVE** - "ODD NUMBERS" : simplified from a dance on official Whitby video: 3 v 2

Tune suggested : "*Girl I Left Behind Me*",  
with 2 extra bars in B by repeating last two bars.

Brief Notation :

*Chorus* : sticks 2 v 2, odd one at bottom dance forward from bottom around into opposite top place in 2 bars, adjust who clashes with whom and repeat each in turn until in original order but now on opposite side.

*Figures :*

1. Lines go forward and back, and then forward again and middle turns and swaps to be between other pair and falls back to their side, repeat forward and back and change back:
2. The middle of the three dances a four leaf clover pattern under the arches made by the other opposites with their sticks across the set, going around the right hand diagonal first, looping clockwise around each dancer in turn whilst going anticlockwise around the set, and ending by going around their right hand neighbour. The arches might step and/or clash during this movement.
3. Funny back-to-back, the middle of the three dances forward and back, while their two opposites dance a back to back with them, ending in the other's place. The two ends dance around the middle three forwards to go to each other's place and turn in to face back across the set. Repeat to place.
4. Diagonal reels, the middle of the three dances a full reel of three with the right hand diagonal and left hand neighbour, then repeats this along the other diagonal. The other two either dance loops in place or go right around the set in the direction that they are facing.
5. Whole rounds for the five and dance off.

**SIX - "SIMPLIFIED HEY" : development from Paradise Islanders' dance : 3 v 3**

Tune suggested : *"Hundred Pipers"*

Brief Notation :

*"Monkey Hey"* : all face and move up, bottoms come through the middle to the top and cast out to top place while the rest cast back one place. Repeat until all back to starting order, then all stick with opposite.

*Figures :*

1. Ordinary cross-over, sticks, cross back and sticks.
2. Half-rounds and sticks, not repeated until rest of sequence done through again.
3. Star-on-side by all facing up, cast outside lead by the top pair immediately forming stars with inner arms and coming back to place after only one rotation.
4. Outsides and insides, like the star but making path larger and not attempting to form a star with the inner arms.

**SEVEN - "LONG LINE" : simplified from Shropshire Bedlams' dance : 7 in line**

Tune suggested : *"Marching Through Georgia"*

Brief Notation :

Top dancer casts off during last 2 bars of music and leads middle pair through a figure of eight around the other two pairs, going around the top first, who dance on the spot and stick.

Reel of Seven, all the way round starting facing in pairs and No.1 coming in late. Sticks and Turn and Go, sticking in pairs whilst dancer at the top dashes on four hopsteps to bottom. Then all turn to face opposite way and form new pairs. Repeat until each has been.

**EIGHT - "STRUCTURED"** : development from Rogue Morris dance : 4 v 4

Tune suggested : "*Battle of New Orleans*"

Brief Notation :

*Chorus* : Half reel of four along the sides and sticks with opposite, repeat to place.

*Figures* :

1. Cross-Over turn and face back, sticks, cross back, turn and sticks again:
2. Accumulate Processional: top pair dance down the centre and backwards to place, then top two pairs ditto, top three pairs ditto, etc. Inactives dance on spot.
3. Square and Round: The centre four stick with opposite while the end pairs dance once around them clockwise, then while the end pairs stick, the centre pairs cross over and go around their ends to their starting place. Repeat all.
4. Sticks and cast: All step and stick with opposite while moving up to the top of the set. Each pair in turn when at the top, clash and cast down the back of their own side to the bottom in 2 bars and join in the clashing again. Go round twice.

**NINE - "BIG SQUARE"** : development of East Acton Stick Dance : 3 by 3  
Performed on Tony Hancock's Half-Hour on TV 1955

Tune suggested : "*Not For Joe*"

Brief Notation :

Work in threes in different orientations.

*Sequence* : Foot Up twice in a specific direction which changes each repeat (thus up, right, down, left, up): middle dancer sticks with the left and then the right hand partner: the three dance a reel of three: then dance a movement involving the three or the entire set, which is called by the leader of the set

*"Calls"* = back-to-back: elbow swing: a three star: a big circle for everybody.

## General

The dance notations attempt to preserve the cleverness in the original concept without being a close copy. It would be unreasonable to attach their original title to the somewhat modified dances. The tunes suggested are not those used by the sides from which the dances were derived, but they are chosen because of their general familiarity.

The stick tapping is usually clashing tips from right to left twice to a bar, but other options should be chosen if the dances are to fit into a repertoire.

The stepping is a "single" step with strong off beat emphasis, which continues through the dances without jumps, and often during the stick tapping.

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