

# Ten Simple English Dances for Beginning Callers and/or Beginning Dancers

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This resource contains a selection of ten simple English dances that we recommend for beginning callers and/or beginning dancers.

These dances cover a range of basic figures in ECD, and they are all published in The Playford Ball. Recorded music for all of these dances is available on the CDS Boston Centre English Country Dance Collection CDs in the CDSS online store. The Claremont Country Dance Band's cassette "Juice of Barley;" or Marshall Barron and Phil Merrill's cassette "By Popular Demand". Dance instructions are available here as well as in the Playford Ball. Written music for the tunes to accompany these dances is available in The Playford Ball or in the Barnes Book of English Dance Tunes, Volume 1.

## INTRODUCTION

Whether you are a beginning English dancer, an aspiring ECD caller, or a musician new to playing for English dance, this selection of repertoire provides a good place to start. Before you dig into these dances, read about How to call ECD and/or How to Play for ECD. If you need help understanding a part of the dance or if one of the figures doesn't make sense to you, look for help in the Playford Ball or in Hugh Stewart's descriptions of ECD figures. Good luck!

## OVERVIEW

Here's the list, with dance title, the formation of the dancers, the meter and key signature for the music, and where you can find recorded music. The dance instructions are provided below.

Title	Formation	Meter	Key	CD/Cassette/Book
Black Nag	3 couple set	6/8	Dm	<a href="#">By Popular Demand</a>
Childgrove	longways duple improper	2/2	Dm	<a href="#">CDS Vol 12</a> or <a href="#">Juice of Barley</a>
Draper's Maggot	longways triple minor	3/4	G	<a href="#">By Popular Demand</a>
Duke of Kent's Waltz	longways duple	3/4	G	<a href="#">CDS Vol 12</a> or <a href="#">Juice of Barley</a>
Geud Man of Ballangigh	longways duple	6/8	G	<a href="#">CDS Vol 12</a> or <a href="#">By Popular Demand</a>
Hit and Miss	2 couple set	6/8	Em	<a href="#">CDS Vol 12</a>
Hole in the Wall	longways duple	3/2	Bb	<a href="#">CDS 3: Simple Pleasures</a>
Indian Queen	longways duple	2/2	D	<a href="#">CDS Vol 12</a> or <a href="#">Juice of Barley</a>
Knole Park	longways duple	2/4	D	<a href="#">Juice of Barley</a>
Sellenger's Round	round for as many as will	6/8	G	<a href="#">By Popular Demand</a>

## BLACK NAG

Formation: 3 couple set

Meter: 6/8

Key: Dm

Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 13

Longways for three couples

3 x A BB

Cecil Sharp, 1911

DM I: 1665-1716

### Part I

- A 1-8 Partners lead up a double and fall back a double. That again.
- B1 1-2 1st couple take two hands and move up four slips.  
3-4 2nd couple the same.  
5-6 3rd couple the same.  
7-8 All turn single right.
- B2 1-8 Repeat B1, slipping back to place in reverse order, 3rd couple slipping down first.

### Part II

- A 1-8 Partners side twice.
- B1 1-8 1st man and 3rd woman change places with four slip steps, leading with right shoulder and passing back-to-back.  
3-4 1st woman and 3rd man the same.  
5-6 2nd couple the same.  
7-8 All turn single right.
- B2 1-8 Repeat B1 back to place.

### Part III

- A 1-8 Partner arm right, arm left.
- B1 1-8 Men hey for three, skipping; 1st man begin by passing right shoulder.
- B2 1-8 Women hey as in B1, men turn single on last four beats of music.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 12

## CHILDGROVE

Formation: longways duple improper  
Meter: 2/2

Key: Dm  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 20

Duple minor longways, 1st couple improper  
AABB

Cecil Sharp, 1922  
DM I: 1701-1728

- A1 1-4 Partners side.  
5-8 Partners back to back.
- A2 1-8 Repeat A1 with neighbor.
- B1 1-4 Neighbors turn two hands once and a half, skipping, and open to face across the set.  
5-8 Partners turn two hands.
- B2 1-8 1st couple figure eight through 2nd couple above, skipping.

Note: Inactive couples should change places with partner at top and bottom while waiting to re-enter the dance.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 18

## DRAPER'S MAGGOT

Formation: longways triple minor  
Meter: 3/4

Key: G  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 30

Triple minor longways  
AA BB ad lib

Douglas and Helen Kennedy, 1929  
DM I: 1706-1728

- A1 1-4 1st and 2nd couples circle four hands once around.  
5-8 1st couple cast down to middle place **while** 2nd couple lead up.
- A2 1-8 1st and 3rd couple four changes of rights and lefts, beginning with partners.
- B1 1-4 1st man turn 3rd woman two hands **while** 1st woman the same with 2nd man.  
5-8 Partners turn two hands.
- B2 1-4 1st man turn 2nd woman two hands **while** 1st woman the same with 3rd man.  
5-8 Partners turn two hands.

Dance Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), page 27

Music Source: CDS6 *By Popular Demand*; 6 x through dance; starts and ends with chord

## DUKE OF KENT'S WALTZ

Formation: longways duple

Meter: 3/4

Key: G

Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 32

Duple minor longways

A. Simons, 1970

AAB

*W.M. Cahusac's Annual Collection* (Cahusac), 1801

- A1 1-8 All right hands across and left hands back.
- A2 1-8 1st couple take two hands and move two waltz side steps down center, two back, and cast down to second place, 2nd couple leading up.
- B 1-4 All take right hands with partner and balance forward, back, and change places, men turning partners under their arms (down the set).  
5-8 Repeat movement giving left hands.  
9-12 Men turn women below their partners by right hands.  
13-16 Men turn partners left hand.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 30

## THE GEUD MAN OF BLLANGIGH

Formation: longways duple

Meter: 6/8

Key: G

Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 43

Duple minor longways

Cecil Sharp, 1922

AABB dance: DM I: 1696-1728 music: DM I: 1709-1728

- A1 1-4 1st couple lead down between 2nd couple and cast up to place.  
5-8 Two men lead out between women and cast back to place.
- A2 1-4 2nd couple lead up between 1st couple and cast down to place.  
5-8 Two women lead out between men and cast back to place.
- B1 1-4 1st man set forward to 2nd woman (who does not set), and turn single to right, back to place.  
5-8 1st woman the same to 2nd man.
- B2 1-4 Circle four hands halfway and fall back in lines, improper and progressed.  
5-8 Partners set forward (5-6), and change places passing right shoulder (7-8).

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 39

## HIT AND MISS

Formation: 2 couple set  
Meter: 6/8

Key: Em  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 51

Two couples facing  
3 x AA BB C

Cecil Sharp, 1916  
dance: DM I: 1651-1716; music: DM I: 1651-1690

### Part I

- AA 1-8 All forward a double and fall back a double. Th at again.  
B1 1-4 All forward again, men lead opposite women away from set.  
B2 1-2 Changing hands, men lead same women back.  
3-4 Opposites face, take right hands with partner and fall back a double.  
C 1-6 Partners face and circular hey, four changes, beginning with partner, skipping.

### Part II

- AA Partners side twice.  
BB & C As in Part I.

### Part III

- AA Partners arm right, then left.  
BB & C As in Part I.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 48

## THE HOLE IN THE WALL

Formation: longways duple  
Meter: 3/2

Key: Bb  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 52

Duple minor longways  
AA B

Douglas and Helen Kennedy, 1929  
DM I: 1696-1728

- A1 1-4 1st couple cast down, move around 2nd couple and lead up center to place.  
A2 1-4 2nd couple cast up, move around 1st couple and lead down center to place.  
B 1-2 1st corners change places, falling back on last three steps.  
3-4 2nd corners the same.  
5-6 Circle four hands halfway around.  
7-8 1st couple cast down one place, 2nd couple moving up.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 50

## INDIAN QUEEN

Formation: longways duple  
Meter: 2/2

Key: D  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 57

Duple minor longways  
AA BB

Cecil Sharp, 1922  
CM I: 1701-1728

- A1 1-4 1st corners set forward to each other, and turn single back to place.  
5-8 The same turn two hands once around.
- A2 1-8 2nd corners repeat A1.
- B1 1-8 All right hands across and left hands back.
- B2 1-4 Partners back to back.  
5-8 Circular hey, three changes, beginning with partner.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 53

## KNOLE PARK

Formation: longways duple  
Meter: 2/4

Key: D  
Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 65

Duple minor longways  
AA BB

A. Simons, 1961  
Dance: Voight, *Selection* (Wheatstone), 1809;  
Music: Bishop, *Six New Minuets* (L & B), 1788

- A1 1-4 Circle four hands once around.  
5-6 1st corners change places.  
7-8 2nd corners change places.
- A2 1-8 Repeat A1 to place.
- B1 1-8 1st couple lead down center, lead back, and cast down one place, 2<sup>nd</sup> couple moving up.
- B2 1-8 Whole poussette counterclockwise, 1st man (*in 2nd place*) pushing.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 62

## SELLENGER'S ROUND

Formation: round for as many as will

Meter: 6/8

Key: G

Music available in: Barnes Vol 1 pg. 116

Round for as many as will

Cecil Sharp, 1916

5 x A BB

Dance: DM I: 1670-1690; Music: *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book* (1609)

### Part I

- A 1-8 All take hands and circle eight slips to the left and eight back.  
B1 1-2 All set forward to center (no hands).  
3-4 Fall back a double to place.  
5-8 Partners set and turn single.  
B2 1-8 Repeat B1.

### Part II

- A 1-8 With hands, all forward a double to center (not setting) and fall back a double. That again.  
BB 1-16 As in Part I.

### Part III

- A 1-8 Partner side twice.  
BB 1-16 As in Part I.

### Part IV

- A 1-8 Partners arm right, then arm left.  
BB 1-16 As in Part I.

### Part V

- ABB Repeat Part I.

Source: Keller and Shimer, *The Playford Ball* (CDSS, 1994), 96