

Mixers for Parties, Community, Basic, or SSD Dances

Compiled by Dottie Welch, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, April 2022, dwelch@eastlink.ca
Presented at Community Dance Leaders Seminar in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

32-Count Dances

KATHIE'S DELIGHT

By Stew Shacklette

Formation: Partners in a double circle facing counter-clockwise.

Music: "Military Two Step" (two-step rhythm) or "Waltzing Matilda" Grand March Grenn 16001

Footwork: Opposite footwork, begin with gent's left and lady's right.

Prompts:

- - - -, - - Walk Eight;
- - - -, Face Partner and Back away four;
- - Forward four, - Claps and Stamps;
- - - -, - - Star Right and move forward to new partner;

Description:

1-8 Join adjacent hands and walk forward seven steps and face partner on the eighth;

9-16 Dancers back away from each other four steps, then go forward four steps;

17-24 The claps and stamps sequence is: Own hands, Right with Partner, Own hands, Left with Partner; Own hands twice, Quick Stamp 3;

25-32 (Two-Hand) Star Right once around and move forward to a new partner;

JEAN'S FLING

By Stew Shacklette

Formation: Partners in a double circle facing each other, gent in center.

Music: "Baldovan Reel" on Caledonian Ball

Footwork: Opposite footwork, begin with gent's left and lady's right.

Prompts:

- - - -, Join both hands, Walk Out four;
- Walk In four, Side, Close, Side Touch;
- - Both ways, - - Back away 3;
- - Together 3, - Turn by Right full around and move forward to new partner.

Description:

1-8 Partners join both hands and walk outward four steps with the gent pushing.
Then the lady pushes as they walk back inward in four steps.

9-16 Beginning with the foot towards line of dance, step to the side, close with the other foot, step to the side, touch with the other foot. Repeat going in the other direction.

17-24 Releasing hands, both dancers back away three steps and touch,
then they come together three steps and touch.

25-32 Same dancers turn by the right full around until gent is on the inside and lady is on the outside. Dancers release hands and individually move forward to a new partner.

JIFFY MIXER

By Jerry and Kathy Helt

Formation: Double circle, partners facing in butterfly position, gent has his back to the center.

Music: "Jiffy Mixer", Lloyd Shaw LS E-35

Prompts:

- - - -, Heel and toe twice;
- Side, Close, Side, - other way back;
- - - -, - - Chug and Clap (4 times);
- - - -, Slant right to a new partner.

Description:

- 1-8 With foot towards line of dance touch heel, touch toe, touch heel, touch toe, step to the side, close with the other foot, and step to the side again.
- 9-16 With foot towards reverse line of dance repeat counts 1-8.
- 17-24 Release hands. Each dancer does a small jump back and then claps, and repeats this three more times. (Or four slow steps back with a clap after each step.)
- 25-32 Start with the left foot and move, diagonally right, to a new partner with four slow swaggering steps. Finish in a butterfly position to begin the dance again.

48-Count Dance

LANCASH BARN DANCE

Traditional

Formation: Double circle of facing partners standing about six feet apart.

Men in the inside circle facing the wall; Ladies in the outside circle facing the center.

Music: "Lancash Barn Dance" on Lloyd Shaw LS E-35 (special 48-count music)

Prompts:

- On the chord bow to partner;
- - - -, Forward 3 and Stamp;
- Back 3 and Clap 2; - - - Repeat;
- - - -, - Right-Arm Turn;
- - - -, - Left-Arm Turn;
- - - -, Both hands joined Circle Left full around;
- - - -, Dosado and Move to the left.

Description:

- 1-8 Walk toward your partner 3 steps and stamp, then back away 3 steps and clap your hands twice (fast) on the 4th count.
- 9-16 Repeat counts 1-8
- 17-24 Turn your partner with a Right-Arm Turn (May be forearm or pigeon wing hold).
- 25-32 Partner Left-Arm Turn
- 33-40 Partner two hand turn. Walk around right hip to right hip.
- 41-48 All Dosado partners and back away. While backing away, move to your own left to face a new partner.

64-Count Dances in Small Groups with Scatter Promenade

THE BARN MIXER

By Rick Mohr, August 1986

Formation: Scattered small circles with two normal couples in each circle.

Music: Jigs such as "Frisky and Solomon Medley" on *Caledonian Ball*

----, -- Circle Left;

----, -- Right-hand Star;

----, -- Right and Left Thru;

----, -- Dosado Opposite;

----, -- Balance and Swing Opposite (new partner); ----, ----;

----, -- Scatter Promenade; ----, ----.

THE GATE MIXER

From Sunday afternoon Community Dance before 2004 Reno CALLERLAB Convention

Choreographer unknown, suggested for a University Get-Acquainted dance

Formation: Several circles of 3 to 6 couples

Music: "Golden Slippers" or "Mouth Tobique" on *Any Jig or Reel CD*

----, -- Circle Left;

----, -- Forward and Back;

----, -- With partner, Gate in 8; (Cast Off full around, Man is at pivot point)

----, -- Forward and Back;

----, -- With corner, Gate in 8; (Man is still at the pivot point so now clockwise)

----, -- Ladies Promenade Inside;

----, -- Swing corner;

----, -- Scatter Promenade.

JENNY REEL

Researched by Susan Morris at the Don Armstrong Memorial Dance, May 2002 in

Albuquerque, New Mexico and presented by Susan at the BDPLS in Kansas City, April 2009.

Formation: Several Circles of three couples each

Music: Any strongly phrased 64-count music, "Mad River Medley" on *Portland Selection*

----, -- Circle Left;

----, -- Circle Right;

----, -- Dosado Partner;

----, -- Right-Hand Star Across; (Join hands with dancer directly across)

----, Lowest Level Pull Thru and Swing;

Middle Level Pull Thru and Swing, Top level Pull into a Swing;

----, -- Scatter Promenade;

----, Make new circles of three couples.

64-Count Dances in a Big Circle

THE VOWEL DANCE

Used by Shannon Lynch at Smokin' Contra in Halifax, NS, April 2008

Formation: Big Circle of Partners facing the center

Music: Many singing calls will work such as "Paddlin Madelin' Home" on Blue Star 2455

----, -- Forward and Back;
----, -- Forward and Back;
----, -- Allemande Left;
----, -- Dosado;

----, Grand Right and Left (saying vowels);
"A" ----, "E" ----;
"I" ----, "O" ----;
"U" and Promenade with "U", ----.

POLKA MIXER

By Dottie Welch (written in 2017 for Norwegian Polkas played by Joe Pratt)

Formation: Circle of partners

Music: 64-count polka, "Happy Polkas Medley" on *Sound of New England* CD

----, -- Forward and Back;
----, -- Forward and Back;
----, -- Circle Left (8 counts);
----, -- Go Right in Single File (8 counts);

----, -- Leader Backtrack, pass partner and another in four polka 1-2-3's;
----, - With next dancer Right-hand Star;
----, -- Same two Left-hand Star;
----, -- Hold on into a Promenade.

TEN O'CLOCK MIXER

By Al Brozek from Connecticut

Formation: Single Circle of Couples all facing the center of the hall

Music: "Lay Some Happiness on Me", or "Callison Hall Jig" on Lloyd Shaw 320, or
"I Don't Love Medley" # 3 on *Sound of New England*

----, -- Forward and Back (Walk in 2, 3, swing foot, Back 2, 3, swing);
----, Forward and Back and face partner;
----, Face for Heel and Toe In and Out; (join both hands, heel, toe, side, close, side)
----, Heel and Toe again but just the lady move out;

----, All walk forward 8 steps (Ladies clockwise, Gents counter-clockwise);
----, Turn alone and return to partner in 8 steps;
----, Turn partner left arm full around;
----, Swing Corner (or pass by the next and face in).

LASSO MIXER

By Dottie Welch, June 2008 for Cole's June Bug Barn Dance
(Combination of Lariat Circle and Lighted Sconce)

Formation: Circle of Couples all facing the center, lady on the right side of her partner.

Music: "Cowgirl's Sweetheart" on Elite Records 1023 (slow it down)

- - - -, - - Circle Left;
- - - -, - - Lasso Lady;
- - - -, - - Circle Right;
- - - -, - - Lasso Gent and a bit more to put him in the center;

- - - -, - - Ladies push the gent into the center (4); Back out (4);
- - - -, - - Dosado with the same dancer and then move to left to a new partner;
- - - -, - - Two-hand Circle Left halfway;
- Lady turn under her left arm into circle beside new Partner, - - Forward and Back.

Description:

- Lasso Lady: Gent raises his right hand holding his partner's left hand and circles it around his head as the lady walks forward in front of him and on around behind back to her spot.
- Lasso Gent: Lady raises her left hand holding her partner's right hand and circles it around her head as the gent walks forward in front of her and on around behind back to his spot.
- Continue the turn until the gent is standing in front of the lady with his back to the center.

ROUND ABOUT MIXER

By Cis Hinkle, Atlanta, Georgia (A modification of "Ease About Mixer" by Gene Hubert)
On Saturday evening of the 2005 Beginner Dance Party Leaders Seminar in Louisville, Kentucky, several callers attended a contra dance prompted by Bev Bernbaum from Toronto. Bev used this delightful, easy mixer. The musicians were Kitchen Chair.

Formation: Big circle of couples facing in, ladies on the right of partner.

Music: Traditional music with a strong 8-beat phrasing, jigs work well.

"Seneca Square Dance and Les Fraises and Les Framboises", *Kitchen Chair* CD

- - - -, - - Partner Swing; (or Partner Dosado)
- - - -, Promenade around the ring;
- - - -, - - Promenade In 4;
- Back Out 4, - Ladies Weave to the right (in past first, out past second);

- - - -, - - Forward and Back;
- - - -, - Gents Weave to the right (in past first out past second);
- - - -, - - Partners Star Right full around;
- - - -, - - Move ahead to new partner (boys move counter-clockwise, girls move clockwise).

Description:

- As the Gents Weave, the Ladies should turn a quarter left ready to make the Star.

Other Mixers

KIWI RING

Scottish Country Dance from New Zealand

Formation: Circle of partners

Music: "Kiwi Ring" on Lloyd Shaw E-40 (special 80-count jig)

- - - -, - - Circle Left;
- - - -, - - Circle Right;
- - - -, Ladies figure eight around the gents;
- - - -, - - - -;
- - - -, Gents figure eight around the ladies;
- - - -, - - - -;

- - - -, Face partner, clap own hands twice, stamp foot twice, right hand step by;
- - - -, Repeat claps and stamps and left hand step by the next;
- - - -, Repeat claps and stamps and right hand step by the next;
- - - -, Repeat claps and stamps and left hand step by the next.

Figure Eights:

- Lady goes to her left in front of her partner and around him back through her spot.
She continues to the right in front of her corner and around him back to her original spot.
- Gent goes to his right in front of his partner and around her back through his spot.
He continues to the left in front of his corner and around her back to his original spot.

CLASSIC COMMUNITY WALTZ

By Dottie Welch, 2022

Formation: Circle of partners facing in. Begin with gent's left and lady's right foot.

Music: "Valse Du Vieux Moulin" (Waltz from *Any Jig or Reel* CD)

Description in measures of 3 counts each:

- 1-2 Forward and Back;
- 3-4 Left Lady Roll Across from Gent's left to Gent's right;
- 5-16 (repeat this for a total of 4 times)

17-20 Face new partner: Step Swing In; Step Swing Out; Slide In, Slide In;
21-24 Step Swing Out, Step Swing In, Slide Out, Slide Out;
25-28 Banjo waltz around in four groups of 3's turning to Sidecar on the last;
29-32 In Sidecar waltz around in four groups of 3's to Big Circle;

Or 25-32 Waltz in closed position with a quarter left turn on first, third, fifth and seventh measures.