

SICILIAN CIRCLE

(Tune: "Haste to the Wedding")

There are many versions of this early American dance, all of which seem to be adaptations of an earlier English Contra dance, "Portland Fancy." It can be done to a variety of tunes, individually or in medley; "Haste to the Wedding" is used here.

Formation:

Double circle, two couples in a set, alternately facing clockwise and counterclockwise to form sets of two couples. Each man has his lady on his right. This is the duple minor set.

Action:

1. Partners join inside hands, walk forward 3 steps, bow and move back to place.
2. All four join hands and circle once around to left.
3. Ladies chain across the set and back to place.
4. Both couples do a right and left through across the set and back to place.
5. Repeat 1, then go forward and pass through to meet new couple.

Summary:

1. Forward 4 and back;
2. Circle left;
3. Ladies chain; chain back;
4. Right and left through and back.
5. Forward 4 and back; forward 4 and through to the next.

Variations:

Simplified Version: (Courtesy of Richard Chase)

1. All four join hands and circle once around to the left, reverse, and circle once around to the right.
2. Right-hand star once around, left-hand star back.
3. Do-si-do partners passing right shoulders; same with the other lady.
4. Forward and back, and pass through to a new couple, or Swing partner, swing corner (each one long pull-apart swing, walking).

See English Country Dances of Today, page 15, and two versions in the *Country DanceBook*, Tolman and Page, pages 53 and 54.