

North Kerry Set

A popular Irish polka, called at many Ceilis
These are instructions for the body (chorus) and the first five (of several) figures.
From the dance book "Toss the Feather" by Pat Murphy*.

Bars Step

8 Introduction before start of each figure.

FIGURE 1: POLKA (152 BARS)

- 16 (a) All couples, in waltz hold, dance the body:
 - they dance in and back (2 bars)
 - then turn clockwise to the right (2 bars)
 - repeat both movements three times, dancing around the set to place.
- 8 (b) Top couples join right hands in the centre, dance around (4 bars) then join left hands and dance back to place (4 bars).
- 8 (c) Top couples swing in place.
- 16 (d) All dance the body again
- 16 (e) Side couples dance (b) and (c).
- 16 (f) All dance the body again.
- 64 (g) Repeat (b) to (f).

FIGURE 2: POLKA (152 BARS) – Show the Lady

- 16 (a) All couples dance the body as in Figure 1.
- 8 (b) First top couple house inside (show the lady).
- 8 (c) First top couple slide to the centre and back (4 bars); then dance one turn in place (4 bars).
- 16 (d) All dance the body again
- 96 (e) Repeat (b) to (d) three more times; (b) and (c) are danced first by opposite top couple, next by first side couple (on top couple's left), and finally by second side couple

FIGURE 3: SLIDE (104 BARS)

- 16 (a) All couples dance the body as in Figure 1.
- 8 (b) Both top couples slide to the centre and back (4 bars); then house across to the opposite position - they cross on the right, turning clockwise twice (4 bars).
- 16 (c) Top couples repeat (b), returning to their own places; then full house around.
- 16 (d) All couples dance the body again.
- 24 (e) Side couples dance (b) and (c).
- 16 (f) All dance the body again.

FIGURE 4: POLKA (88 BARS)

- Ladies' Chain or Ladies' Star

- 16 (a) All couples dance the body as in Figure 1.
- 8 (b) Ladies join right hands in centre and star around to opposite gent (2 bars), ladies take gents left hand and turn (2 bars), ladies right hand star in centre to home (2 bars), ladies take gents left hand and turn (2 bars).
- 8 (c) Waltz hold – swing.
- 32 (d) Repeat (a) to (c).
- 16 (e) All couples dance the body.

FIGURE 5: HORNPIPE (96 BARS)

- 16 (a) All couples dance the body as in Figure 1 but using hornpipe steps.
- 8 (b) All couples house around the set (hop-123).
- 10 (c) Gents advance and retire once while ladies dance on to the gent on the right (2 bars),
House with new partner to the gent's home (8 bars).
- 30 (d) Repeat (c) three more times.
- 16 (e) All couples dance the body (hop-123).
- 8 (f) All couples house around the set (hop-123).

Body Hornpipe Steps - waltz hold

Gents

Count

- 1 Dance In: Hop on the right foot, then step L-R-L
- 1 Dance Out: Hop on left foot, then step R-L-R
- 2 Turn On: hop on right, L-R-L; hop on left, R-L-R

Ladies

Count

- 1 Dance In: Hop on the left foot, then step R-L-R
- 1 Dance Out: Hop on right foot, then step L-R-L
- 2 Turn On: hop on left, R-L-R; hop on right, L-R-L

House

"House" or "house around" is a quaint Irish dance term the meaning of which is to dance around the inside of the set. It can be done by a single couple, two couples at a time or all couples at the same time.

** The original notes have been modified to match the dance as it was taught at this festival.*