

Bare Necessities

(England)

Bare Necessities is a set dance choreographed by Pat Shaw and published in April, 1974 in a small collection called Muschamp's Mushrooms. The dance was presented by Marianne Taylor at the 1984 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: Varrick VR 013 Side A/3 3/4 meter
The record provides music for two complete cycles of the dance (six times through the music).

MUSIC: Muschamp's Mushrooms, Pat Shaw, 1974. Available from Country Dance and Song Society of America, New York.

FORMATION: Three couples in a circle, woman to the right of the man.

STEPS: Waltz*, chasse*, ballroom pos*.

Star (by the R): Join R hands in modified handshake hold (fingers fwd and down) and travel forward (CW). Star by the L joining L hands and moving CCW.

Grand Chain: Giving R hand to partner, move forward passing R shldr (one change); continue giving L to the next, and R to the next. This makes three changes of a Grand Chain.

Balance (R): Take a small step on the R ft to the R; step on the L ft next to the R ft; step on the R ft in place. Use opposite ftwk and direction to Balance L. In waltz time, this is an even movement, one step per beat.

Gypsy: Facing ptr, both people make a complete circle (CW) around each other.

STYLING: Flowing motion is achieved by leading with the body rather than with the feet. Arms hang relaxed, moving easily with the motion of the dance. On stars and chains, arms are extended firmly at shldr level.

*Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

chord INTRODUCTION No action is specified, however dancers usually acknowledge the other members of the set.

I. STARS AND CHAIN

A1 1-4 W Star by the R hand once around (4 waltz steps).

5-8 M Star by the L hand once around (4 waltz steps).

A2 1-6 Starting with ptr, dance three changes of a Grand Chain (two waltz steps for each change.

7-8 Joining L hand with ptr, M turn W under joined arms to end in ballroom pos, joined hands twd ctr. (Original instructions say "man twirl partner clockwise," but Marianne recommended turning CCW.)

II. CHASSÉ AND BALANCE

B 1-2 Take two slow chasse steps twd ctr, closing but not taking wt on the last count.

3-4 Facing out, Balance away from ptr (M beg R, W beg L); Balance back twd ptr and resume ballroom pos.

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- 5-6 Take two slow chasse steps away from ctr, closing but not taking wt on the last count.
- 7-8 Facing in, Balance away from ptr (M beg R, W beg L); Balance back twd ptr and join hands in a circle of six.

III. CIRCLE AND GYPSY

- C 1-4 Circle L (4 waltz steps).
- 5-8 Gypsy around ptr; continuing past own place, pass new ptr (original corner) by the R, turning CW to face this new ptr. (It helps to take inside hands with the new ptr and turn to face ctr to reshape the set and allow the M to lead the W into the R hand star.)

The dance repeats twice more with new partners, until dancers are back to original ptrs. The Varrick recording gives enough music to do the entire dance twice through.

Description written September 1984.

