

Blackstone Jig

(Scotland/USA)

The Blackstone Jig was choreographed by Craig Blackstone in 2016. It was originally presented at Changs International Folk Dance group and has since been presented to several folk dance groups in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as some international locations including Japan and the Czech Republic. Craig also presented it at the 2016 Blossom Festival in San Francisco and during the Dances for All Ages Workshop at the 2016 Stockton Folk Dance Camp at University of the Pacific.

- Music: 6/8 meter Usually danced on counts 1 and 4; JIG-i-ty, JIG-i-ty or Slow, Slow.
"Calliope House/Cowboy Jig" by Alisdair Fraser
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXIJZ9aawCg>
- Formation: Closed circle of cpls facing ctr, M on L, W on R, hands in W-pos.
- Steps & Styling: Slide or Sashay (to left): Step L to L (ct 1); step R next L (ct 3); repeat (cts 4, 6). This step is usually repeated several times, and can be done with opp ftwk in opp direction.
Set (to right): Small leap onto R to R, bending knee (ct 1); step on L toes next to R and straighten R knee (ct 3); step R in place and extending L diag fwd L (ct 4). This also be done to the left, and is typically done in pairs.

Measure	6/8	PATTERN
		INTRODUCTION. None. Start immediately with music.
I.		<u>ADVANCE AND RETIRE AND ELBOW TURNS.</u> <i>Note: Throughout this figure, all steps are walking steps, two steps per meas, on cts 1 and 4.</i>
1-2		Beg R, three steps twd ctr; touch L next to R.
3-4		Beg L, three steps bkwd; touch R next to L.
5-8		Link R elbows with ptr. Beg R, rotate CW in place using 8 walking steps, and end facing ctr in the orig pos in a closed circle.
9-12		Repeat meas 1-4.
13-16		Repeat meas 5-8, linking L elbows and rotating CCW in place. W use the last two steps to unlink elbows, step to ctr and face out, M facing ctr. Ptrs join both hands, R hand joined to L. M take only seven steps and touch L so L ft is free.
II.		<u>SASHAY, SET, AND ARCHES.</u>
1-4		Starting on M's L and W's R, eight sashay steps traveling CW around the circle. On the last sashay, M keep R ft free.
5-6		Set to R; set to L.
7-8		M drops R handhold and lifts L hand in front of his face to form arch with W's R; M walks three steps fwd twd ctr and does a half-turn R to face out while W walks four steps, making a half-turn L and backing through arch to face ctr. W passes to outside on M's R side. Rejoin both hands.
9-12		Repeat meas 1-4, moving CCW, starting on M's L and W's R.
13-14		Repeat meas 5-6.
15-16		M drops R hand and lifts L hand to form arch with W's R. W remains in place facing ctr while M walks four steps fwd passing W's R side, making a half-turn L to face in. All dancers reform circle, hands in W-pos. M has progressed one position to R.

Sequence: Repeat figures until end of music; on last repeat, in Figure I, music slows down during first advance and retire; after second advance and retire, dance ends with ptrs making slow 2-hand CW turn rather than L elbow turn.