

Shiftin' Bobbins (Scotland)

Shiftin' Bobbins is a 32 bar reel for 3 couples devised by S. Roy Clowes in June 1981. The title of the dance refers to the movements of bobbins in a floor loom used to make tartans. Movements up and down the center of the set represent the throwing of the shuttles and the turning of the bobbins. The dance was presented by Elinor Vandergrift at the 1986 Idyllwild Workshop.

RECORD: Drummond Cook's Scottish Country Dance Band, Beachwood Records
JW 001, Side A/1; Festival Records, Express 258 (45). 2/4 meter

CASSETTE: Festival Records, Express 258 (short cassette).

FORMATION: Set of 4 cpls in longways formation. Beg at the top, cpls are numbered from 1 to 4.

STEPS and STYLING: Bow and curtsey*, cast down*, cast up*, hands across*, move up*, set*, skip change of step*, wrong side*.

Skip change of step (beg R) is used throughout unless otherwise noted.

*Described in Scottish Glossary section of Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

MUSIC	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION M bow and W curtsey to ptr.

I. CROSS TO A BACK-TO-BACK POSITION

1-2 Cpl 1 cross over giving R hands; W 1 pass in front of M 1 down the set to a back-to-back position with ptr in the ctr between cpls 2 and 3 as cpl 2 moves up. W 1 face M line, M 1 face W line. W 1 join R hands with M 2, L hands with M 3. M 1 join R hands with W 3, L hands with W 2.

3-4 Cpls 1, 2, and 3 set.

5-8 Cpl 1, on wrong sides, dance out individually and cast up, meeting at top of set. Cpl 1, briefly giving nearer hands, dance down set to a position opp 2nd place on wrong sides.

II. HANDS ACROSS ON THE SIDES; DOWN THE CENTER

1-4 W 1 dance R hands across with M 2 and M 3, once around CW. M 1 dance L hands across with W 2 and W 3, once around CCW.

5-8 Cpl 1: Give nearer hands, dance down the ctr (4 meas).
Cpl 2: Turn twd ptr, meet in the ctr and give nearer hands (1 meas); dance down the ctr behind cpl 1 (3 meas).
Cpl 3: Dance individually up the set to 1st pos (2 meas); with nearer hands joined, dance down the ctr behind cpls 1 and 2 (2 meas).

III. UP THE CENTER; HANDS ACROSS ON THE SIDES

- 1-4 Cpls 1, 2, and 3 turn individually twd ptrs to face top of set; give nearer hands. Cpl 3 leads.
- Cpl 3: Dance up ctr twd 1st place (2 meas); release hands and cast into 3rd place (2 meas).
- Cpl 2: Dance up ctr (3 meas); release hands and cast into 1st place (1 meas).
- Cpl 1: Dance up ctr to end opp 2nd place (4 meas).
- 5-8 W 1 dance L hands across with M 2 and M 3, once around CCW.
M 1 dance R hands across with W 2 and W 3, once around CW.
- Cpl 1 end in ctr of set opp 2nd place facing up, still on wrong sides.
Cpl 2 is in 1st place, cpl 3 is in 3rd place.

IV. FIRST COUPLE UP THE SET; CAST DOWN; HALF FIGURE OF EIGHT

- 1-4 Cpl 1 give nearer hands, dance up the set; release hands and cast down individually around cpl 2 to 2nd place on wrong sides.
- 5-8 W 1 dance up the set and around W 2 in a CW direction, ending in 2nd place on own side. M 1 allow W 1 to pass in front of him, then dance up the set and around M 2 in a CCW direction, ending in 2nd place on own side.
- 32 meas Cpl 1 repeat dance in 2nd place with cpls 3 and 4.
- After 2nd time through dance individually to bottom of set on the outside. Cpl 4 move up to 3rd place. Cpl 2, 3, and 4 each in turn repeat the dance twice through.
- Chord M bow and W curtsy to ptr.