

TARANTELLA (ITALIAN)

Legend tells that the Tarantella with its wild turns was done to relieve the maddening pain of the tarantula's sting. Encyclopedia Britannica states more correctly that this dance derives its name from the Italian city of Taranto in Apulia.

There are numerous versions of the Tarantella. The one listed below is as done by a majority of Federation groups. Using Mary Hinman's version as basis, Barbara Hirschfield began to teach the dance to the Berkeley Folk Dancers. When she was called away, the remainder of the arrangement was completed by Constance Moncharsh. The steps were arranged in order to fit the specific record.

MUSIC: Records: Victor Record V-175A Sicilian Tarantella
Victor Record V12462A Fischiettando
Piano: Hinman, Mary: Gymnastic and Folk Dancing, Vol. IV

FORMATION: To be danced in groups of four. Carry tambourines. W--women M--men

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      M      W
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      M      W
  
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STEPS: *Step-hop *Chasse (slide) *Heel and Toe
*Hop *Skip *Buzz Turn
Change Step
Change Step: Jump on R foot at the same time kicking L foot straight forward (ct. 1); quickly change feet kicking R foot forward (ct. 2) and so on. Strike tambourine directly in front once for each count.

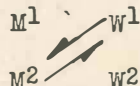
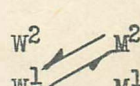
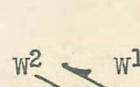
Music in 3/8 or 2/4 time. Count two beats to a measure.

*Description for step to be found in Introduction.

THE DANCE

MUSIC	DESCRIPTION	CHECK LIST
A. Measure 1-4	Introduction Stand, hands straight up, shaking tambourine	Introduction
5	I. <u>Step-hop-swing and change step</u> Step R, swing L foot forward and across and hop on R	I. Step-hop-swing & change step
6	Repeat, stepping L	
7-8	Four change steps starting R	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat step-hop-swing and change sequence twice more.	
B. Measure 1-2	II. <u>Hopping to side</u> With weight on L foot, lift R knee high to the side (keeping R foot close to L knee), keep it up and hop 4 times toward R. R hand on hip, tambourine in L overhead.	II. Hopping to side
3-4	Stamp on R, turn right 4 counts, using buzz step. L hand on hip. R hand stretched low to R holds tambourine.	
5-8	Repeat hops and turn to L	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence to R, then L.	

MUSIC	DESCRIPTION	CHECK LIST
C. Measure	III. <u>Square</u>	III. Square
1-2	All face out. Both hands overhead. Slide R four slides to next person's place.	
3-4	Stop at new corner to do 4 change steps, starting on R foot.	
5-8	Repeat all until each person has returned to original place.	
Repeat 1-8		
D. Measure	IV. <u>Skip Across</u>	IV. Skip Across
1-2	Partners face, both arms raised. Skip four to partner's place, passing R shoulders	
3-4	Stop to do four change steps in place	
5-6	Skip <u>backward</u> passing R shoulders to original places	
7-8	Do four change steps.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence	
E. Measure	V. <u>Matching fingers</u>	V. Matching fingers
1	Man kneels on L knee facing partner. Lady stands. Both have L hands on hips. Both slap R knee (ct. 1), then raise one finger (ct. 2)	
2-4	Repeat 3 times, raising different numbers of fingers each time.	
5-8	Lady starts R, skips 8 skips around man, returning to place.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence	
F. Measure	VI. <u>Back to back</u>	VI. Back to back
1	Men rise. Partners stand back to back with R shoulders touching, arms overhead	
2	Tap L toe across R, return L foot to place	
3-4	Tap R across L, return R to place	
5-8	Turn R with four short buzz steps, remaining back to back.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat three more times in all--to end in own place.	
B. Measure	VII. <u>Heel and toe</u>	VII. Heel and toe
1-4	Facing audience, all progress to R. Hopping on L foot, moving to R, touch R heel (ct. 1), toe (ct. 2) alternately on floor. Continue for 8 cts. L hand holds tambourine, R on hip.	
5-8	Stamp R and turn R with 8 buzz steps. L hand on hips, R stretched to side with tambourine.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence to L.	

MUSIC	DESCRIPTION	CHECK LIST
C. Measure	VIII. <u>Face partners--heel and toe</u> Partners face	VIII. Face partners heel and toe
1	Hop on R foot, extending L heel sideward (ct. 1) Tap L toe (turned toward other foot) in same spot (ct. 2) Tambourine in L hand.	
2	Repeat above step hopping L, extending R heel & toe. Tambourine changed to R hand.	
3-4	Partners stand with R hips together, R hands around partner's waist, L hand raised high. Hop four on R foot turning with partner in place.	
5-8	Repeat measures 1-4 starting with hop on L, and turning with four hops on L foot.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence.	
D. Music	IX. <u>Square</u> Repeat square as in Figure III	IX. Square
1-8		
1-8		
E. Measure	X. <u>Diagonal cross</u>	X. Diagonal cross
1-2	Lady 1 and man 2 skip four to exchange places passing R shoulders. Hands high overhead. Simultaneously Lady 2 and Man 1 do four change steps in place.	
3-4	Lady 2 and Man 1 exchange places Lady 1 and man 2 do change steps in place	
5-6	Lady 1 and Man 2 skip four <u>backward</u> steps to own places. Lady 2 and man 1 do change steps in place.	
7-8	Lady 2 and Man 1 skip <u>backward</u> to original places. Lady 1 and Man 2 do change steps	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat whole sequence	
G. Measure	XI. <u>Star</u> Form star with R hands to center, tambourine raised in L hand.	XI. Star
1-4	Hop eight on R foot moving forward.	
5-8	Break star, stamp L and turn L away from square with 8 buzz steps, R hand on hip and tambourine stretched out in L.	
Repeat 1-8	Repeat starting with L hand star and turning to R.	
H. Measure	XII. <u>Step-hop-swing and change step</u> Repeat step-hop-swing and four change steps (See I) twice starting to R.	XII. Step-hop-swing and change step
1-8		
J. Measure	XIII. <u>Turn and pose</u> R hand overhead, step to R and buzz 15 counts ending in pose with man's R hand around lady's waist; lady's L hand on her hip; both outside hands with tambourines raised.	XIII. Turn and pose
1-8		