

TARANTELLA MONTEVERGINE

(Italian)

This dance comes from Rod LaFarge of New Jersey. The steps were collected from the peasants who dance at the many fiestas held by the Montevergine societies in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. These peasants are mostly hard-working people who dance in heavy working shoes. The man is a rough individual who often tries to embrace the girl in the encircling position of the "sorellina." To allow this would brand the girl as a wanton in front of the crowd, so she may spread her arms and sometimes even slaps the ardent swain, which of course delights the spectators.

MUSIC: Cinderella Tarantella Victor **25-0127**.
 FORMATION: Two couples facing each other. No. 1 couple with back to music. W on M R.
 STEP: A light running step or fast walking step, 2 steps per meas., starting R unless otherwise specified. Arms are held overhead, swaying in time with the music, with finger snapping. Castinets are often used instead of finger snapping.

Music (6/8)	PATTERN
Measure	I. Circle.
1-2	All join hands and circle with shuffle grapevine: glide R ft. to side, glide L behind R, glide R to side, glide L in front of R. Twist body and keep feet on floor.
3-8	Repeat action of meas. 1-2 three more times.
9-16	Repeat action of meas. 1-8, circling L and starting with R gliding back of L.
	Chorus:
1-4	Facing partner, arms overhead, do 4 pas de basques, starting with a leap onto R and swing L over in front of R touching floor (not a step swing).
5-6	Without actually touching, partners enclose each other with outstretched, encircling arms at above waist level (W arms under M). Make 1 full turn CW with 4 steps. This position is called "sorellina" or little sister.
7-8	Each turns individually CW out of the embrace with 4 steps, raising arms overhead.
9-16	Repeat action of meas. 1-8 with opposite.
	II. Star
1-8	All form R hand star, taking 16 steps fwd. in CW direction, L hand high, fingers snapping.
9-16	Change to L hand star and repeat meas. 1-8 in CCW direction.
	Chorus:
1-16	Same as above.
	III. Elbow Turns.
1-2	Linking R elbow with partner, L hand over head, make 1 turn CW with 4 steps.
3	With 2 steps M exchange places passing back to back (L shoulder leading) W take 2 steps in place. Link L elbow with opp. W, and
4-6	Repeat action of meas. 1-3, making 1 turn CCW. M passing back to back (R shoulder leading), return to partner.
7-12	Repeat action of meas. 1-6.
13-14	Repeat action of meas. 1-2.
15-16	Turn individually CW into original place with 4 steps, arms held overhead.

(Continued)

TARANTELLA MONTEVERGINE (Continued)

Music (6/8)	PATTERN
1-16	Chorus: Same as above.
	IV. Shuttle Dos-a-Dos.
1-2	Facing opp., arms overhead, take 2 polka steps, M fwd., W bwd., so that M can pass back to back.
3-4	Repeat action of meas. 1-2, M bwd., W fwd., the couples thus exchanging places (as in a dos-a-dos of couples).
5-8	Facing partners, repeat action of meas. 1-4.
9-16	Repeat action of meas. 1-8.
1-16	Chorus: Same as above.
	V. Arches.
1-4	With inside hands joined, outside hands on hips, couple No. 1 passes under the arch made by couple No. 2. Both couples exchange places with 4 steps. Retaining hand holds, make a half turn CCW (M moving bwd., W fwd.) to face opp. couple with 4 steps.
5-8	Repeat action of meas. 1-4 with the couple No. 1 forming the arch.
9-16	Repeat action of meas. 1-8.
1-16	Chorus: Same as above.
	VI. Cross Over and Slide.
1-4	M with R hands joined, L hands on hips, exchange places in 4 steps, flinging L hand out on 4th step. Without releasing hands, change back with 4 steps. W keep time in place, hands overhead.
5-8	Repeat action of meas. 1-4, ending with M raising R hands to form an arch.
9-12	W join R hands under the arch, and exchange places. Without releasing hands, change back.
13-14	Still with R hands joined, W reach over arch and join L hands with partners.
	Entire formation revolves CW with 4 sliding steps, starting L.
15-16	All release hands and turn individually with 4 steps in place CW. Note: It is not necessary to finish in original position.
1-16	Chorus: Same as above. End with snapping of fingers overhead.