

# Levi Jackson Rose

(United States)

Levi Jackson Rose is a circle mixer created by Bernard Chalk for dancers from Berea College in Kentucky to display in London in 1985 while representing the United States at the United Nations Year of Youth. Chalk was a caller from England who specialized in American contras and squares and called frequently in the United States. He was asked by Dr. John Ramsey, the director of the Berea College Recreation Extension, to write a dance inspired by the dance Levi Jackson Rag by Pat Shaw (1974), also a 5-couple mixer, but in a different shape. Both dances were named for the clubhouse used as a dance hall at Levi Jackson State Park in Kentucky and designed to be done around the columns that ran down the middle of the hall (since demolished).

Levi Jackson Rose is usually done to the tune “October Rose,” written by Ruth McLain (1980).

Lothar Narins presented this dance at the Federation’s Officers Ball in October 2023. He and his mother, Ulrike, learned it during a lengthy stay in Japan in 2016, at one of the monthly all-day workshops.

Music/Meter: “October Rose” was recorded on the McLain Family Band Country Dance Album CLR-16. (See [mclainfamilyband.com/discography](http://mclainfamilyband.com/discography) and the linked store to purchase online.)

If danced to “October Rose” (6/8 meter), two steps per measure. It can also be danced to any 32-bar jig (6/8 meter), reel (2/4 meter) or 16-bar march (4/4 meter).

Video: Videos on YouTube; search for “Levi Jackson Rose dance.”

Formation: Five couples in a circle, although groups of four and six couples also work. (See notes on mixing below.) Face center, M on L, W on R. Corners are the dancers on their other side.

Steps & Styling: Walk. A basic walking step used in square and contra dancing. Begin with R foot. If music is in 6/8 or 2/4, two steps per measure; for a march, four steps per measure.

Allemande L. Rotating with another dancer, usually with Corner, L hands joined in W-pos, usually one complete turn. Can be done with R hands joined, usually with partner.

Buzz Step. Moving left (CW), step R in front of L (ct 1); step L to L (ct &). Step repeats exactly. Often done while in ballroom position, rotating as a couple, but also used, as in this dance, in a circle of couples.

L-Hand Star. Dancers face R in a small circle, extending and joining L hands, arms straight from the shoulder.

Balance. Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct &); step R in place (ct 2). Can be done with opposite footwork and direction.

When danced, the timing of the walking moves can be somewhat fluid.

---

Meas	6/8 meter (but see notes above re meter)	PATTERN
------	--	---------

---

INTRODUCTION. Length will depend on the music used.

I. FIGURE 8 USING ALLEMANDE L, ALLEMANDE R.

1-3 Allemande L Corner: M face W on L; W face M on R. Joining L hands, arm bent at the elbow, beg R, walk 6 steps fwd, rotating one full turn CCW. End facing ptr and release L handhold.

Levi Jackson Rose – *continued*

- 4-6 Allemande R Partner: Extend and join R hands with ptr. Walk 6 steps fwd, rotating CW one full turn plus a quarter, to end M in ctr facing CCW, W on outside facing CW. Ptrs maintain R handhold. M use L hand to form a L-Hand Star.
- 7-8 Balance R, twd partner; Balance L, away from partner.
- II. WALK FWD HALF WAY; SWING PARTNER. (see note below)
- 1-4 M maintain the L-Hand Star; drop R handhold. Beg R, walk eight steps fwd, M walking CCW, W walking CW, meeting ptr again.
- If dancing a four-couple set, walk past partner to the next dancer to make it a mixer.  
If dancing a six-couple set, stop at the fifth dancer.
- 5-8 Take ballroom pos and rotate (swing) using six Buzz Steps. On meas 4, M step twd ctr, raise arms high to each side, and join hands with M on each side, forming arches. M release W to her R, and W spins with two steps in place, ending behind M. Note: W may choose not to spin, but stand behind M.
- III. WOMEN WEAVE THE ARCHES; BASKET HOLD; BUZZ STEP IN A CIRCLE.
- 1-6 W weave CW around the circle formed by the M, moving with 12 steps through the arches: in under their ptr's L side, in front of the second man, out the next arch, behind the third man, and in front of the fourth man.
- 7-8 W join hands in V-pos. With four steps, W back under the arch between the fourth and fifth M. M lower their joined hands in front of the W to form the "rose" or basket.
- 9-16 Using 16 Buzz Steps, rotate the circle of cpls CW (no specified distance). Release all handholds on meas 16, to prepare to repeat from the beginning. Note: If W are delayed while weaving the arches, the number of Buzz Steps in a circle may be reduced.

Sequence: Repeat dance as noted until the music ends.



In Levi Jackson Rose, women weave under the arches formed by the men.