

Fjäskern

Origin: Fjäskern (FYEHS-kehrn), which means “Hurry-Scurry” comes from southern Sweden. Gordon Tracie learned this dance in Sweden in 1950 and taught it to folk dancers in the United States. The music accelerates almost ridiculously slow to almost impossibly fast. The dance was described in Samkväms och Gillesdanser, Stockholm, 1950. *Rhythm:* 4/4 (but accelerates) *Styling:* Footwork is the same for M and W.

Throughout the entire dance, there is a simple L/R alternation of the foot w/out stopping. Style is sprightly and w/humour.

Formation: Couples in a circle facing CCW, W on M's R, inside hands joined and held at shoulder height in “W” position— free hands always on hips Swedish style (fingers FWD and thumb BKWD).

Measure	Count	Introduction	Measure	Count	FIG. 2 - Kick and exchange places
1-2	—	No action necessary	1	1	Facing partner squarely w/M on inside and W on outside of circle, w/both hands on own hips, step L in place as R kicks FWD
1-4		FIG. 1—Circle forward and back Beginning L, walk 16 steps CCW in LOD	2		Step R in place as L kicks FWD
5-8		Turning toward partner, take opposite hands and walk 16 steps CW in RLOD	3		Step L in place as R kicks FWD
		NOTE: After the first two sequences, running steps will be used for FIG. 1 as the music accelerates	4		Step R in place as L kicks FWD
			2		Clapping own hands on 1st count, then placing hands on own hips for the last 3 counts, exchange places w/partner with 4 steps, moving CW
			3-4		REPEAT action of measures 1-2 to return to original position w/M's back to center
			5-8		REPEAT action of measures 1-4
					NOTE: After the first two figures or so, kick-leaps will be used as the music accelerates. As dance repeats, M move FWD to next W for a new partner
					REPEAT entire dance from beginning