

PICKING UP STICKS

Type: English dance for six *Descriptions by:* Olga Kulbitsky, Hunter College of the City of New York

Formation: All facing front. W on partner's R inside, hands joined, R foot free.

Measures **PART 1 A**

- 1-4 FWD and BACK - a double step FWD and 4 light running steps
- 5-8 REPEAT 1-4

PART 1 B - Zig Zag

- 1-4 1st M changes places w/middle dancers on opposite side w/running steps passing R shoulders, then w/last dancer on his own side in same way.
- 5-8 All FWD and BACK

- 1-4 1st W REPEATs zig-zag pattern of measures 1-4
- 5-8 All FWD and BACK

NOTE: The zig-zag pattern and all FWD and BACK measures 1-4 are done 6 times in all. RETURN to original places. The zig-zag changes are led alternately by the person in the M's original place, then by the person in the 1st W's place.

PART 2 A - Siding

- 1-4 Partners change places and return. Partners change places w/4 running steps passing L shoulders then return w/4 running steps passing R shoulders. Cross over on 1st 2 steps and turn on 3rd and 4th steps.
- 5-8 REPEAT pattern of measures 1-4

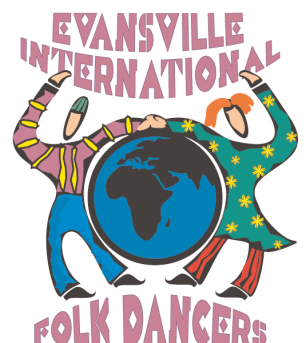
PART 2 B - Shuttle and skip around the set

- 1-8 1st & 2nd couple shuttle and 3rd couple skip around the set. 1st couple join hands and skip up between the 2nd couple w/4 slides while the 2nd couple slips down on the outside into 1st place w/4 slides. (measures 1-4) then return to place. 2nd couple, w/both hands joined, slipping up between the 1st couple (measures 3-4). REPEAT pattern of measures 1-4 simultaneously. 3rd couple skip around the outside of the set, passing R shoulders w/partner to start & also at the other end on the way back to place.

- 1-8 3rd and 2nd couple shuttle, 1st couple skip around the set. 3rd couple join hands and dance the shuttle pattern w/2nd couple slipping between, 2nd couple to start, while the 1st couple passes R shoulders and skips around the outside of the set.

PART 3 A - Arming

- 1-4 R elbows swing w/partner, once around & return to place w/8 running steps
- 5-8 L elbows swing w/partner, once around & return to place w/8 running steps



...PICKING UP STICKS CONTINUED

PART 3 B - Sheepskin Hey

1-24 M dance the sheepskin hey around the W. 1st M followed by 2nd & 3rd M, cross over and lead M in a weaving pattern, skipping through the 3 W who remain standing still in their places, passing outside 1st W, inside 2nd W, and outside 3rd W. 1st & 2nd M continue CW, completely around the 3rd W and finish facing up the set, while the 3rd M, instead of following the 2nd M around the 3rd W, makes a CCW circle around the 2nd W, finishing up the set as leader of the file.

3rd M, followed by the 1st and 2nd M, now leads, weaving up and around the 1st W, while the 2nd M, now last in the file, instead of following the 1st M around the 1st W, make a CCW circle around the 2nd W, becoming the new leaders of the file.

2nd M, followed by the 3rd and 1st M, now leads weaving down and around the 3rd W while the 1st M, who is now in the file, circles around the 2nd W and regains his place as leader.

1st M lead the file, now in proper order, around the 1st W, then cast off, going down behind the W's line without weaving, and returns up to places.

1-24 W dance the sheepskin hey around the M, as above, ending w/bow to partners.