

Haystack Roundabout

Author: Michael Barraclough (c1970)
Source: Country Bumpkin (Michael Barraclough)
<http://www.michaelbarraclough.com>
Formation: Triple circle with extras, mixer
Music: 32-bar jigs and reels

Notes:

- 1) This is a good dance when there is a significant gender imbalance. It is best done with either one man with two ladies or one lady with two men, but not both. Each member of the trio becomes part of one of 3 concentric circles. The inside and outside circles being made up of people of the same gender and the middle circle made up of people of the other gender. Any people of the same gender as the middle circle who do not have partners should stand in the middle of the set.
- 2) As in any ninepins type dance, the music should stop at random somewhere in the B2 or even into the next A1.
- 3) Haystack Folk Club was the ceilidh (folk song and dance) club at London University which ran from September 1969 for about 5 years, and where I started calling regularly. The dance is a mishmash of various other dances, eg Rebecca's Roundabout, Lights Out, Devil's Roundabout etc.
- 4) For a long time I used to carry a bar of soap with me as a present for the person who was left in the middle the most times!

Dance:

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| A1 | 1-4 | Centers chasée counter-clockwise with outside partner |
| | 5-8 | Chasée back |
| A2 | 1-4 | Centers and outside partner right-arm turn |
| | 5-8 | Centers and inside partner left-arm turn |
| B1 | 1-8 | Centers and inside partner pousette into the middle and back twice |
| B2 | 1-8 | Centers, joined by the spare people in the middle, single file clockwise under tunnel of two handed arches made by the others until the music stops (<i>when the arches capture a new partner and those not captured go to the middle</i>) |