

Katey Cruel

as performed by Great Norther Border

Original choreography by Rick Nagler for General Hardware Border Team

Tune: Katy Cruel

Overall Impression:

Although this dance is performed without bells or vests and has a sung accompaniment it is not a Molly dance; it is a border dance without sticks. Much of the beauty of this dance is how the actions are tied tightly to the music. Places where partners take hands or release hands should happen as precisely with the music as would a stick clash. Sometimes this can even take the form of making an audible slap with your partner when taking hands. (If the slap sound itself is important is of some debate, but the precision it requires is vital.)

Stepping:

Single steps generally starting on the right foot. As a tag at the end of each figure (except the last figure), the final beat gets a second fast single step; as in 'stomp-stomp'. Dancers starting motion in the middle of the figure (i.e. in Peel Off) may have to start left footed or do a fudge step before the chorus.

Sequence:

Lead-On

-Chorus

Peel-Off

-Chorus

Right Hands Around

-Chorus

Arming

-Chorus (end down)

Figures:

Lead-On:

Dancers line up outside of the performance space.

Using the end of the chorus as a short intro in dancers start with the 'stomp-stomp' tag and follow number 1 into the performance space ending with number one facing the singer with the rest of the group lined up behind him facing up.

Singer

1

2

3

4

at the end of the verse at the first 'diddle' in the lyrics, 1 and 3 take a turn single over the left shoulder while 2 and 4 turn single over their right shoulder to bloom out into a square facing across the set. (1 faces 2, 3 faces 4)

Singer

1 2

3 4

Chorus:

Each dancer takes a surging step forward into a line shoulder to shoulder

1

2

3

4

and steps in place to the end of the measure. On the next strong beat all take a single surging step forward to

form a line 90 degrees to the first one. (2 and 3 turn to their left while 1 and 4 have a longer stride turning to the right.)

4 2 3 1

Repeat for the next measure

4
3
2
1

and again to

1 3 2 4

Stepping onto your right foot turn to face neighbor (1 faces 3, 2 faces 4) and on the next beat begin a zipper hey stepping onto the left foot. Dancers 2 and 3 only get one step in the hey formation before coming out to make an open turn to the right to face back into the set. They will come into the center of the set to go face to face with each other and then back up to their home place. 1 and 4 will get two steps in the hey (once with 2 or 3 and a second with each other) before making an open turn over their right and facing in. As soon as 2 and 3 have cleared the middle of the set they will shoot through the middle passing right shoulders to get back home in time for the 'stomp-stomp'. All dancers end in their square home positions facing across the set.

Peel-Off:

Number 1 starts stepping around the set in the clockwise direction, all others are still. After three beats (until the next strong beat) Number 2 follows number 1 around the set starting on their left foot. Again three beats later number 4 follows 2, and again with number 3 on their left foot. As each dancer completes their circling of the set they continue to step when they reach their square home position.

Right Hands Around:

2 and 3 give each other Right hands and turn 1 and 1/2 times. Meanwhile 1 and 4 take a long turn single over their left shoulders. 2 and 3 then break their hands and take their partner (1 with 2 and 3 with 4) Right hands and circles for seven beats about 1 and 3/4 times to form a Right hand star on the first 'diddle' of the lyrics. (2 should be in front of 1 and 3 should be in front of 4). After circling around about one time the star breaks on the second 'diddle' and each does a turn single over their left shoulder to their home position.

Arming:

On the first step dancers step in towards the center of the set with 1 and 2 facing up (towards the music) and 3 and 4 facing down. They should attempt to be cheek to cheek to cheek to cheek. Each couple hold each other by the waist with inside arms. Each couple moves out (up or down) and to their left to making a turn returning to the set from the sides. 2 and 3 drop connection to 1 and 4 and take right hands and circle 1 and 1/2 times while 1 and 4 take a slow turn single over their left shoulders. 2 and 3 drop hands. 2 gives left hand to 4 and as does 3 to 1 on the first 'diddle' in the lyrics. Each couple circles for about two turns and returns to their home place.

Final Chorus:

Is just like the rest of the choruses except there is no 'stomp-stomp' on the final beat but a strong single stomp on the beat, with the music cut off. Hands stay down.

Notes by:

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Recommended on line videos:

Neither of these are perfect but they show much of the styling and figures. There are other better filmed and more complete videos of this dance out there, but they do the dance differently.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2trHbDQ_iA&feature=related

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zs7MP1u_-BA