

ALBA'S JIG

A Jig for Four Dancers.

Devised by Margaret Zadworny.

"Alba" is the old Gaelic name for Scotland. However, this dance was also named for four of Margaret's dancers—Ainslie, Leslie, Brianna and Amanda.

The dancers start in a diamond shape facing each other, as shown below, with Dancer #1 at the "front."

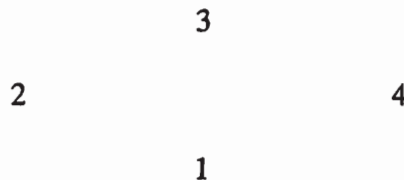


FIGURE I. Petronella

Bars 1-8: All dancers dance petronella turn to progress one place to the right (using two pas de basques R,L).
All set (pas de basques) R, L.
New Dancers #2 and #4 cross using skip change of step, by going through the middle of the set, giving R hand.
New Dancers #1 and #3 cross using skip change of step, by going through the middle of the set, giving R hand.

Bars 9-16: Repeat bars 1-8, to finish half-way around the diamond.

FIGURE II. Advancing

Bars 1-8: Dancers #2 and #4 set R, L on the spot; then set R, L, advancing into the center of the diamond and clapping both hands with each other; dance retiring pas de basques (R, L) back to place. All four dancers dance set R, L, turning once around.

Bars 9-16: Dancers #1 and #3 repeat Bars 1-8.

FIGURE III. Figures of Eight

- Bars 1-8: Dancers #2 and #4 dance a figure of eight around #1 and #3, with dancer #2 crossing in front of #3 first and dancer #4 crossing in front of #1 first (*i.e.*, both travel to their right to start).
- Bars 9-16: All dance balance and pas de basque step (balance, balance, pas de basque X4).
- Bars 17-32: Dancers #1 and #3 repeat the figure of eight around #2 and #4, with dancer #1 crossing in front of #2 first and dancer #3 crossing in front of #4 first. All dance balance and pas de basque as above in bars 9-16.

FIGURE IV. Advance and Turn

- Bars 1-8: All advance to the center of the diamond and join hands (optional), with one skip change of step (R). Turn the circle $\frac{1}{4}$ turn to the L, using one skip change of step (L), retire to new position, using two skip change of steps (R, L).
- Bars 5-8: All set (pas de basque) R, L, dance four spring points, L, R, L, R.
- Bars 9-32: Repeat bars 5-8 three more times, to end up back at home position where you started the step.

FIGURE V. Petronella

Repeat Figure 1, with dancers using crossing to end up in a curved line

1 2 3 4

If men or boys are dancing, they should be in positions 1 and 3. They can use "standard" Highland arms for the balance and pas de basques (3rd for balance and 1st for pas de basques). In addition, they can use high cuts instead of spring points.

Presented by Kamrin MacKnight at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, 2003 and 2007.