

The Shepherd's Crook

(Scotland)

This is a 72-bar strathspey for one man and two women, collected by Mary Isdale MacNab. Directions are given as for a stage performance with an audience.

Cassette: Dances frae the North, Vol 3

4/4 meter

Formation: Sets of 3 dancers (one M, two W) all facing head of hall. The M stands between the two W, numbered as 1st W on his R and 2nd W on his L. Unless otherwise noted, all join nearer hands whenever possible.

Steps: Shake and Rock (8 bars = 32 counts): With four hops on the count on the L ft, point the R foot to the side (ct 1); place against the back of the L leg (ct 2); point to the L instep (ct 3); extend with a shake to a diagonal aerial position (ct 4). Spring onto the R ft pointing the L ft behind (ct 5); spring onto the L ft pointing the R ft in front (ct 6); repeat cts 5-6, "rock fwd, rock back" (cts 7-8). Repeat with opp ftwk commencing with a spring onto the R ft (cts 9-16). Repeat all again to the R (cts 17-24) and L (cts 25-32).

Highland Schottische (4 bars = 16 counts): With 4 hops on one ft, the other ft points to the side (ct 1); against the back of the hopping leg (ct 2); to the side (ct 3); against the front of the hopping leg (ct 4); then dance a common schottische to the side—step (ct 5); together (ct 6); step (ct 7); hop (ct 8). Repeat all of this on the other side (cts 9-16). In ballroom hold, the M begins hopping on his R ft, the W on her L ft.

Cross-Over (8 bars = 32 counts): With 4 hops on the count on the L ft, point the R ft on the side (ct 1); place against the back of the L leg (ct 2); slide R ft around to the front of the L leg (ct 3); slide it again to the back of the L leg (ct 4). (This "sliding" movement is called "shedding.") With 2 more hops on the L ft, point the R ft again to the side (ct 5); and place against the back of the L leg (ct 6); then slide the R ft to the front of the L leg before springing onto the R ft and placing the L ft against the back of the R leg (ct 7); hop on the R ft dropping the L ft to point in the R instep (ct 8). (The "sliding" movement between cts 6 and 7 is called "cross-over.") Repeat with opp ftwk (cts 9-16). Repeat all again to the R (cts 17-24) and to the L (cts 25-32).

Last Shedding (8 bars = 32 counts): Dance 3 shedding movements with the R ft (cts 1-12)—while hopping on the L ft, point the R ft to the side (ct 1); place against the back of the L leg (ct 2); slide right ft around to the front of the L leg (ct 3); slide it again to the back of the L leg (ct 4); etc. Commencing with a spring on the R ft, dance a shedding movement with the L ft while hopping on the R ft; dance a shedding movement with the L ft while hopping on the R ft *and* making a complete turn to the R (cts 13-16).

Arms: During the shedding movements, the opposite arm from the working leg (the same arm a hopping ft) is raised overhead; the other arm is placed with the fist on the hip. This arm rule may also be applied to the turns, *or* both arms may be placed on the hips.

The Shepherd's Crook—continued

<u>Bars</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
Chord	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . M bows and W curtsy, all facing audience.
	<u>FIGURES</u>
1-8	All turn to the R to face away from audience, and dance 4 Strathspey Travelling steps away from audience; turn again to the R and dance back to original places.
9-16	All dance the Setting step, <u>Shake and Rock</u> .
17-24	The Shepherd's Crook: The M guides 1st W to dance under the arch formed by his joined hands with 2nd W, and back to place. (In doing so, 1st W uses 4 Travelling steps to dance completely around the M; meanwhile the others dance one Setting step facing the audience, and then two small Travelling steps to turn inwards under their own arms.) This figure is then repeated with 2nd W dancing under the arch formed by the M and 1st W.
25-32	The M faces 1st W and, taking ballroom hold, they dance <u>Highland Schottische</u> ; they then join R hands and turn once around to finish with 1st W in her original place and the M facing 2nd W (who has been standing facing them throughout this figure).
33-40	The M dances <u>Highland Schottische</u> in ballroom hold with 2nd W; they then join R hands and turn once around to finish with the M between the W, facing 1st W.
41-48	Reel of Three, beginning with the M giving L shldr to 1st W, and finishing in original positions facing the audience with hands joined.
49-56	All dance the Setting step, <u>Cross-Over</u> .
57-64	Forming a circle, dance three hands round to the L for 4 steps, and back to the R for 4 step, finishing in original positions, without hands joined.
65-72	The man dances the Setting step, <u>Last Shedding</u> ; the W modify this step by dancing a pivot turn to the R on bar 68, and 4 slow walking steps in a small circle to the L on bars 71-72.
Chord	M bows and W curtsy, all facing audience.

Presented by Robert McOwen