

# Eikerril

(Norway)

This is a set dance commonly used in performances by Norwegian folk dance groups. Eiker is an area about two hours drive southwest of Oslo; the dance was collected in the town of Vestfossen. The tunes used for the dance in organized folk dance have been hamborgars (a kind of polka) rather than ril melodies. The origins of the dance are somewhat obscure. The dance is described in Klara Semb, *Norske Folkedanser II, Turdansar*, Oslo 1991, ISBN 82-521-3657-5. (In this new edition of the book, there are some significant differences with older versions, mostly regarding the style of the dance. I have chosen to present the way we have danced it earlier.)

Pronunciation:

Music: Norwegian Folk and Figure Dances I, EMI C054-37340, or TD-4, Norsk Grammofonkompani A/S, Oslo. 2/4 meter

Formation: 6 couples in a circle, W on M R. Do not hold hands; arms hang at sides. (Sometimes, the M start on the inside, facing ptr.) Eikerril can also be done with 7 or 8 cpls.

Steps: Side-steps: Step on L lowering wt (almost on both ft) (ct 1); leap slightly onto R beside L (ct &).

Change-of-step: This is a light polka step. Do not actually hop, but lift. Lift on R (ct ah); step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R beside L or slightly fwd (ct &); step on L (ct 2). This step has a (breath)-down-up-down feeling.

Meas

Pattern

## INTRODUCTION.

### FIGURE I. SIDE STEPS

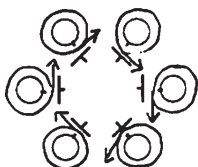
- 1-7 M cross arms in front of chest, and do 14 L Side-steps around the circle, facing W. Begin with a stamp on ct 1 (part of the first Side-step), dancing in and turning to face ptr. Dance around circle CCW to end facing ptr. W stand and hold skirts.
- 8 All do 3 stamps, L,R,L (cts 1,&,2) to change places with ptr. Face ptr the whole time and turn 1/2 CW about a common ctr. End with wt on both ft.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with the roles reversed; that is, W do Side-steps in the circle, M stand. W still hold skirts, M cross arms in front of chest. End with W on outside, M on inside, of circle.

### FIGURE II. CHAIN

- 1-15 Start with R hand to ptr and chain (grand right and left) around the circle. Hold both hands at shoulder level the whole time. Use 15 Change-of-steps, starting by lifting on R and stepping on L. Chain until you meet your ptr the second time.  
  
This means there is a little more than 1 meas per hand. Norwegian groups usually do not try to phrase each hand exactly with the music, but try to space it so it comes out correctly at the end. After passing the last person, the M positions himself near ctr, W further away.
- 16 Both facing ctr, M in front of ptr, do three stamps L,R,L, ending with wt on both ft.

**FIGURE III. M FIGURERING**

- 1-31 W holds skirt and stands on the spot. M lets arms hang at sides, and dances around each W in turn. M dances CCW around his ptr first, then dances to next W CW around the circle. M repeats this pattern until he is back in front of his ptr. He uses a total of 31 Change-of-steps, starting lifting on R and stepping on L.



Figurering pattern

⊥ = M      ○ = W

M never turns all the way around; even though he may turn back and forth, he always turns back to face ctr. He uses 4 meas to dance around each W, and 1 meas to advance to the next. This uses 30 meas, so he uses an extra meas at the end to approach ptr. He starts by dancing sideways to L, sideways to R, the fwd on L, fwd on R. With the next W he starts with R: he turns 1/4 to R and dances sideways, then fwd for 3 Change-of-step. With the 3rd W, he starts L; with the 4th, R; and so on.

There is lots of play between M and W. W follow M with their eyes (and turns of the head and body). W may bounce in time to music. M swing their arms freely. M may lift arms sharply to shoulder height, snap fingers at W, or stamp to get their attention.

- 32 M ends facing ptr. Stamp 3 times, L,R,L ending with wt on both ft.

**FIGURE IV. CHAIN**

- 1-16 Repeat Figure II, but end with W in front of M.

**FIGURE V. W FIGURERING**

- 1-32 Repeat Figure III with the roles reversed, that is, W dance around M. M hold arms crossed in front of chest. W hold skirts.

**FIGURE VI. PROMENADE**

The dancers can sing along in this figure.

- 1-7 Partners acknowledge each other briefly. M offers W R arm and W takes it with L arm. Free hands hang at sides and swing freely. Beginning L, walk 14 steps CW in a circle, cpl following cpl.
- 8 Stop and do 3 stamps in place (L,R,L). Then, turn 1/2 twd ptr and change arms, acknowledging ptr.
- 9-15 Walk 14 steps starting R CCW in a circle. Some groups wave free hands at onlookers.
- 16 Face ptr, join M L and W R hand extended to side, and stamp R,L,R. End with wt on both ft.

Klara Semb has written down the dance for 6 cpls, but 7 or 8 are used in many groups. When there are 7 or 8 cpls, the figurering is 3 meas around each person, and advance to the next on the 4th. With 7 cpls, dance around ptr first and last. With 8 cpls, dance around each person once (ptr first). The chains must also be performed faster, and with 8 cpls it can be quite hectic. I prefer the 6 cpl version.

Presented by Alix Cordray