

From: Maypole Dances, W. Shaw,
Curwen and Sons, 1954

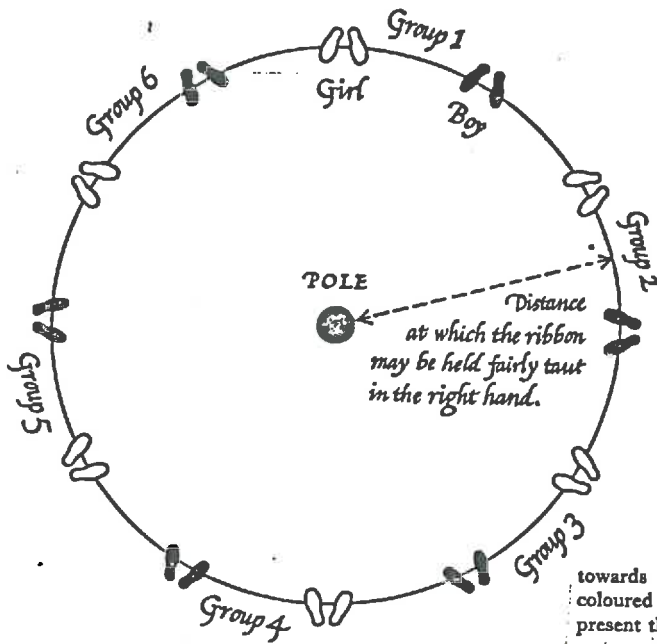
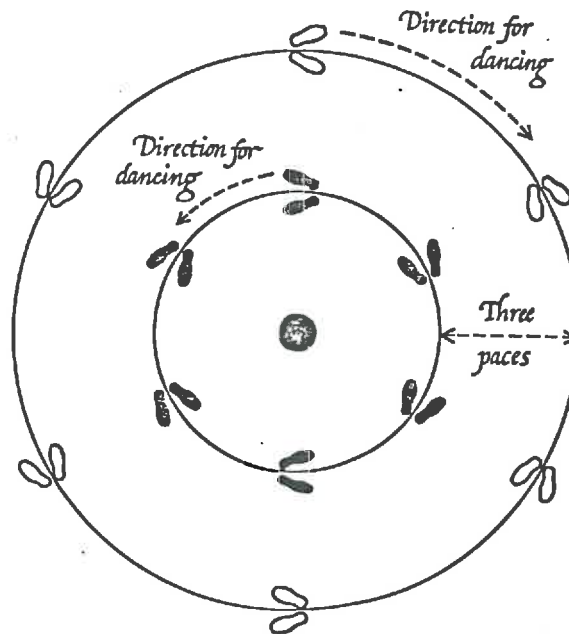


DIAGRAM I
Starting Position

Boys walk towards the pole each taking a pair of the same-coloured braids. They return to their places and present the inner braid to their partner and bow.

DIAGRAM II
Circling, or Barber's Pole
The plaiting is done alternately by girls and boys

Closed Plait. Boys (odd numbers) step in towards the pole three paces and right turn; Girls (even numbers) remain and left turn (diagram II). At the commencement of the tune girls kip round the pole while the boys stand still. When the girls have been once round the pole the boys skip round the pole in the opposite direction. Continue this skipping alternately until sufficient braid is woven round the pole. Stop, turn about and undo plait.



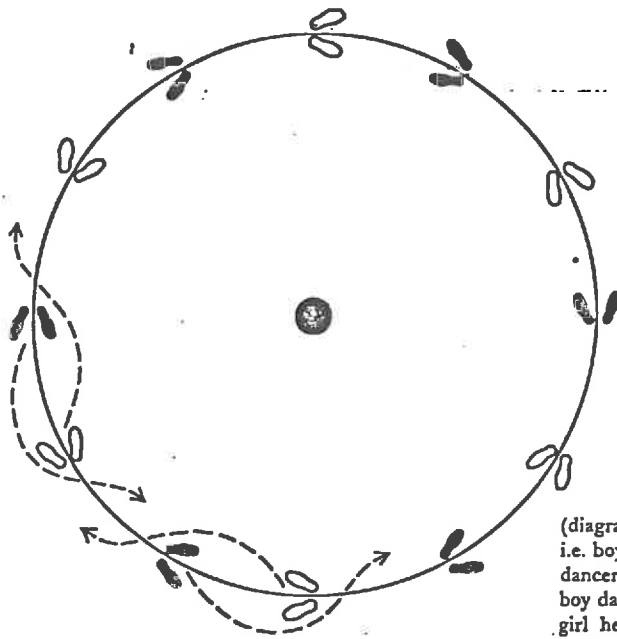


DIAGRAM III
Single Plaiting

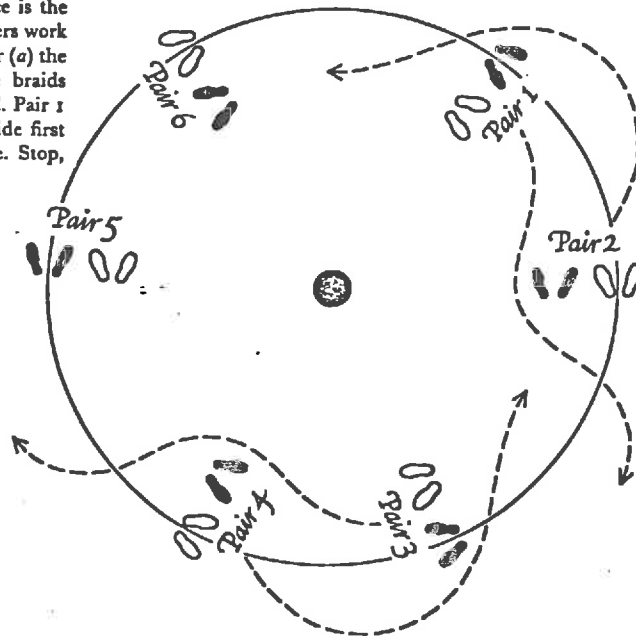
This diagram shows the direction taken by four dancers only, but the plaiting is done by all dancers together

Standing in their starting position (diagram I) partners should turn to face one another, i.e. boys turn right, girls turn left, see diagram III. All dancers dance at the same time (not alternately). Each boy dances outside his own partner and inside the next girl he meets and so on, until he reaches his own partner again. Each girl dances inside her own partner and outside the next boy she meets and so on. The right arm (holding the braid) should be held high above the head when going outside and should be swung down low in front of the body when going inside. This arm movement must be sweeping and rhythmical to achieve an even plait. All stop, turn about and unplait.

The dance is the same as for single plaiting except that the dancers work together in pairs. Partners join hands and either (a) the boy holds both braids or (b) both hold the braids together, the girl using either right or left hand. Pair 1 faces Pair 2 and so on. Even pairs dance outside first then inside, odd pairs inside first then outside. Stop, turn about and unplait.

DIAGRAM IV
Double Plaiting

This diagram shows the direction taken by four pairs, but all six pairs will be dancing at once



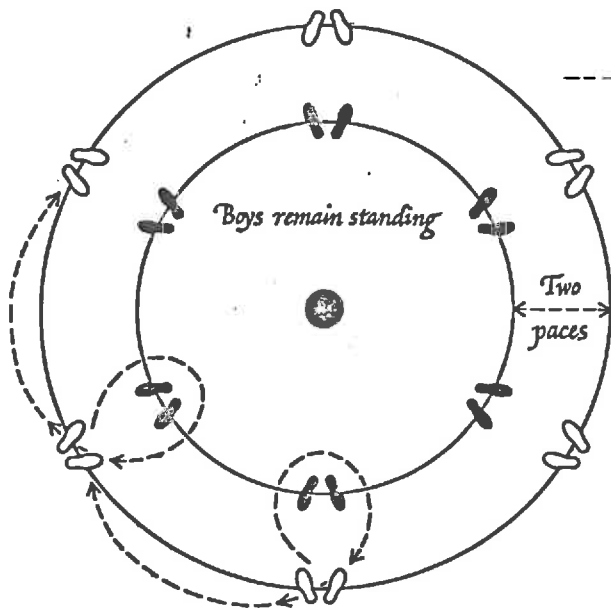


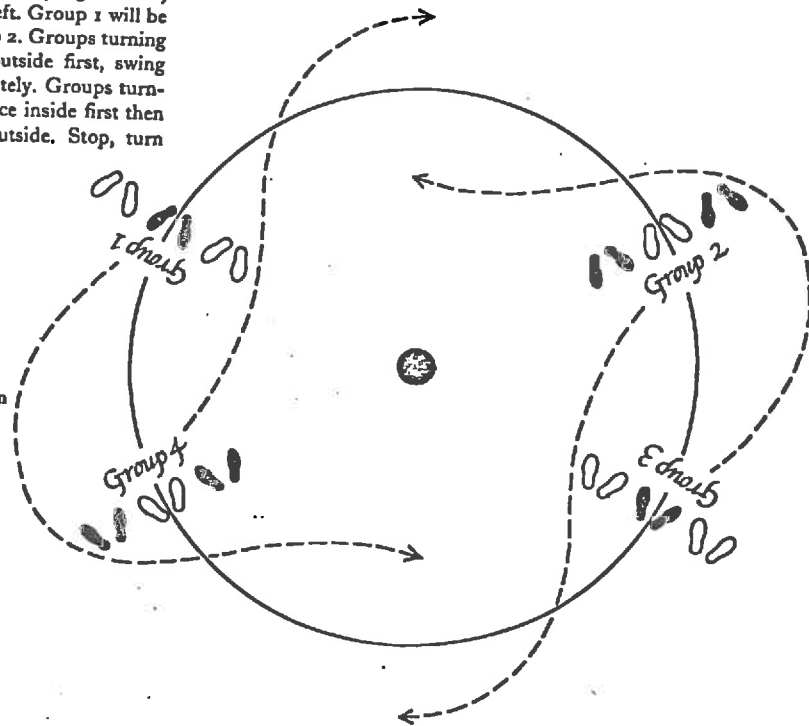
DIAGRAM V
Spider's Web

The movement of one girl only is shown in this diagram, whereas all girls will be dancing at the same time

Open Plait. All stand in a circle facing the pole, as in diagram I. Boys walk in two paces then turn to face their own partners (i.e. with backs to the pole), holding the braid taut above the right shoulder. The spare length of braid looped loosely in the left hand. During the dance the boys remain stationary; girls only, dance. Each girl goes round the back of her partner, see diagram V, to her left and goes on to the next partner on her left, going round him in a similar way. This should continue until she has been round each boy, provided there is sufficient braid. The music is repeated as necessary. Stop, turn about and unplait.

This dance is exactly as for Single Plaiting except that the dancers are grouped in threes. Form threes, arm in arm (diagram VI) group 1 turns right, group 2 turns left. Group 1 will be facing group 4, group 3 facing group 2. Groups turning right hold right arms up, dance outside first, swing arms down and dance inside alternately. Groups turning left, keep right arms down, dance inside first then swing right arms up and dance outside. Stop, turn about and unplait.

DIAGRAM VI
Three's, or Three in Hand
The movement of all dancers is shown



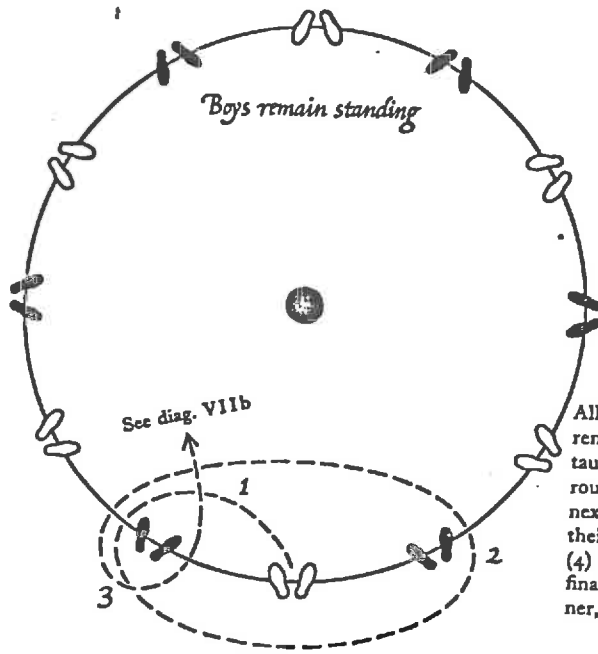


DIAGRAM VIIa
Gipsies' Tent

. Open Plait.
All stand in starting position as in diagram I. Boys remain standing in their places with the braids held taut. Girls only dance, see diagram VIIa. Girls (1) dance round their partners inside first then (2) round the boy next on the right, going outside, (3) back again round their own partners, going inside and, see diagram VIIb, (4) this time on to the boy on the left, going inside; finally (5) back to their own partner, round own partner, going outside first. Stop, turn about, unplait.

The dance is shown in two halves, but the diagrams represent one continuous movement. Only one dancer's movement is shown, but all girls should dance together

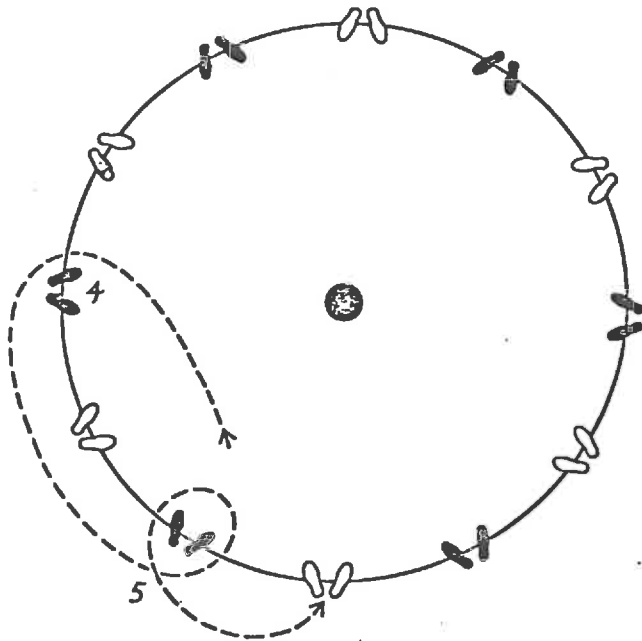


DIAGRAM VIIb
Gipsies' Tent