

Contra Dance: Half Mad

by Beadle

Author's note: This dance uses the notation **L** to refer to the person dancing the gent/lark/left role and **R** to refer to the person dancing the lady/raven/right role. Specific role terms have deliberately been left to the individual caller's discretion.

Becket (clockwise progression)

- A1 Circle left $\frac{3}{4}$
Neighbor swing
- A2 **R**'s chain across (8)
R's mad robin (8) while **L**'s "half mad" (4)*
and right shoulder round in the center (4)**
- B1 Hey for four (pass partner by the left shoulder to start)
- B2 Partner right shoulder round and swing
Slide left along the set to progress

*During the "half mad," **R**'s essentially perform an entire mad robin, starting by moving counterclockwise in front of, then around, their partners and coming back to the place they started the move. **L**'s start by moving/sliding counterclockwise behind their partners, then passing in front of their partners to the center of the set facing the other **L**, with whom they right shoulder round 1x and end facing their partners (**L**'s back-to-back in the middle facing out; **R**'s facing in) ready to start the hey for four.

**This is the figure previously known as "gypsy." Though CDSS has not jumped into the fray to endorse another term, we are aware that some communities and callers have made a substitution for this figure. See page 24 of the Summer 2019 News (available online) for more information on this topic.

Matthew "Beadle" Bealecomb is a caller, dancer, and musician from Nashville, Tenn. When not running the compost pick-up service Compost Nashville, he calls contra dances throughout the Southeast and plays fiddle in the band *Contra Mantra*.



Photograph by Jennifer Wik