

The Three Tunes

A 6 1/2 x 32 bar mixed jig/reel for 4 couples in a square.
Traditional version.

This dance does not consist of alternations between a body and various figures, and bracketted by an opening and a closing. So although 3 figures are repeated (**Rings In The Center**, **Stamp And Clap**, and **Roly-Poly**) and in the same order, all are identified solely by name.

(16) **Circles.** (*jig*)

- (8) Ring Left, Set, Right Right, Set.
- (8) Repeat, but Ring Right first.

(16) **Rings In The Center.** (*jig*)

- (8) Ladies ring:
 - (4) All 4 ladies ring in the center, but use travelling steps, not siding steps, and return to place.
 - (1) All clap twice (in time to the music).
 - (1) All slip sides with partner (using half of a “7s”).
 - (2) All slip sides with partner back to place (using a full “7s”).
- (8) Repeat, but with men ringing in the center.

(16) **Lead Around & Back.** (*reel*)

(16) **Stamp & Clap.** (*reel*)

- (1) All stomp 3 times (on the first 3 beats of the music), Right-Left-Right.
- (1) All clap 3 times (on the first 3 beats of the music).
- (4) All slip sides with partner.
- (1) All slap legs with hands 5 times (on the first 3 beats and on the half beats in-between), Right-Left-Right-Left-Right.
- (1) Repeat, clap 3 times.
- (8) Repeat.

(16) **See Saw.** (*reel*)

(24) **Roly Poly.** (*reel*)

- (1) Hold arms folded (but not touching) at chest Left, hands in fists, with Right arm inside Left arm; roll arms “forward”¹ around each other 3 times (on the first 3 beats).
- (1) Repeat, but rolling “backward.”
- (1) Spin over Right shoulder on Right heel.
- (1) Clap hands once, at face level.
- (1) Men move into the center of the set while stomping with Right foot once and shaking Right fist once in the air.
- (1) Men meet in the center while stomping with Left foot once and shaking Left fist once in the air.
- (1) Men return to place with 3 steps (Right-Left-Right, on the first 3 beats).
- (1) All clap 3 times at face level (on the first 3 beats).²
- (4) Quick 7s with partner, ending at home.
- (12) Repeat.

(16) **Hook & Chain.** (*jig*)

- (2) Turn corner by Right elbow.
- (2) Fast Grand Chain, starting with partner and Left hands.
- (12) Grand Chain, starting with opposite and Left hands, ending at home.

(16) **Rings In The Center.** (*jig*)

(16) **Arches.** (*reel*) As in The Sweets Of May.

- (8) Heads & first sides, heads arching first.
- (8) Heads & other/second sides, heads arching first.

(16) **Stamp & Clap.** (*reel*)

(16) **Thread The Needle.** (*reel*) As in The Sweets Of May.

- (8) 4th lady leads.
- (8) 1st man leads.

(24) **Roly Poly.** (*reel*)

¹“Rolling” starts with one’s arms at the same height, with the Right arm closer to the body than the Left. Rolling “forward” begins by raising the Right arm and lowering the Left (but keeping them in “folded” position) and continuing that motion in a circular fashion around each other. “Backward” is the reverse.

²Traditionally: men clap near partner lady’s face while lady turns her face away to the Right.

- (16) Optional: **Circles.**³ (*jig*)
 - (8) Ring Right, Set, Right Left, Set.
 - (8) Repeat, but Ring Left first.

Caller's Notes for The Three Tunes:

- (16) **Circles.** (*jig*)
- (16) **Rings In The Center.** (*jig*)
- (16) **Lead Around & Back.** (*reel*)
- (16) **Stamp & Clap.** (*reel*)
- (16) **See Saw.** (*reel*)
- (24) **Roly Poly.** (*reel*)
- (16) **Hook & Chain.** (*jig*)
- (16) **Rings In The Center.** (*jig*)
- (16) **Arches.** (*reel*)
- (16) **Stamp & Clap.** (*reel*)
- (16) **Thread The Needle.** (*reel*)
- (24) **Roly Poly.** (*reel*)
- (16) Optional: **Circles.** (*jig*)

Traditionally, this is danced to a set of tunes: “Haste to the Wedding” (a jig), “Leslie’s Hornpipe,” and “The German Beau” (a reel). Modern dances are done to a tune called “The Three Tunes,” which alternates just between jigs and reels. The notes are annotated with the music type based on the latter.

³Some versions of “The Three Tunes” music finish with an additional 16 bars of jig. For this optional extra music, the first figure is repeated, but in reverse order.