

ALABAMA GAL
(American)

Of all the Alabama Gal (or Girl) versions now in existence, this is one of the prettiest and most funfull which we enjoyed doing in Southern Alabama. Up North-way I introduced this particular version wherever I taught and at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, 1949.

Music: Record: Methodist World of Fun 112

Formation: Two lines of four cpls, M on one side and their ptr facing them.

1. Walk through in a hurry,
Walk through in a hurry,
Walk through in a hurry, Alabama gal.

During the first verse, cpl #1 joins hands and stretch them. Front hands are raised diag fwd and above head, as if looking through the joined hands. Walk through ctr to the foot of the set with 8 steps in a hurried manner. Turn about without release of hands to face head of set, now raise the present fwd hands diag and above heads and walk quickly to place. All others clap hands rhythmically.

2. If you don't know how-how,
If you don't know how-how,
If you don't know how-how, Alabama gal.
3. I'll show you how-how,
I'll show you how-how,
I'll show you how-how, Alabama gal.

Second and third verse: Cpl #1 hook R elbows, walk around each other one and a half times till M faces W line and W faces M line. Now M hook L elbows with next W, while W hooks elbows with the next M, turn once around and come back to own ptr, hooking R elbows, circling once around, and on to the third with L elbows, and so on, till the entire set was reeled and the original cpl #1 reaches foot of set, and finish with each other hooking R elbows and circling one and a half times around, back to their lines. If necessary, repeat third line of song once again in order to include all participants in the reeling. The whole character of the dance must be done in a manner of a pretended hurry and a slight drag of feet.

4. Ain't I rock candy,
Ain't I rock candy,
Ain't I rock candy, Alabama gal.

Standing in the ctr of the foot of the set and facing head of set, cpl #1 place their thumbs in the arm pit, and extend rest of fingers, walk up the ctr of set to head with 8 walking steps during which time the extended fingers are flapped back and forth in a "show-off" manner as everyone sings "Ain't I rock candy". Upon reaching head of set, turn R around and walk back to foot of set with 8 more steps. M steps into M line, and W into W line. Now second cpl which is at the head of the set joins hands, walks down the ctr, and repeats the whole dance. Continue doing it until original cpl #1 is again at head of set.

Presented by: Vyts Beliajus