PINS and NEEDLES

(England)

Pins and Needles is a traditional English dance from Northumberland. It was introduced by Tom Kruskal at the 1973 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: HMV7EG - 8854 Side 1, Band 2 (45) 6/8 meter
                EFDSS ED 110 Side 1, Band 1 (45) 6/8 meter
                Any jig in 6/8 meter, such as "Hexam Races"

FORMATION: Cpls facing ptr in Longways Formation, M L shldr twd music; cpls numbered 1 and 2 through the column. Any number of cpls may dance, but there should be a minimum of 5 or 6 cpls.

STEPS and   Walk (2 steps per meas): A lilting step with erect but relaxed posture. Used throughout
STYLING: unless otherwise stated.
             English Balance Step: Low leap R, L, R (cts 1, 3, 4). May also begin with L, and may be danced in any direction, or turning with ptr.

MUSIC 6/8   PATTERN

Measures
  Chord   INTRODUCTION

        I. FOUR IN LINE

1-2   All cpls 1 give R to ptr and turn 1/2 around CW (moving slightly down) to stand between cpls 2, to whom they give L hands (W1 with M2, M1 with W2). All W face up, all M face down.

3-4   Four in line balance fwd (twd direction each dancer is facing) and bkwd.

5-6   Retain joined L hands, release ptr R, and turn 1/2 around CCW to finish with cpls 2 in ctr. Join R with ptr in line of four, all M facing up, all W facing down.

7-8   Four in line balance fwd and bkwd.

9-10   Retain joined L, release ptr R, and turn 1/2 around again to finish with cpls 1 again in ctr. Join R with ptr, all W facing up, M facing down.

11-12   Four in line balance fwd and bkwd.

13-14   All release L. Cpls 1 turn 1/2 around CW. Finish facing ptr, R still joined.

15-16   Cpls 1 balance fwd and bkwd to ptr. Finish facing down ctr.

        II. DOWN CTR AND DANCE AROUND

1-4   All cpls 1 lead down ctr of the set. On last ct turn inward to face top of the set.

5-8   Return up the set to place of cpls 2. Cpls 2 join ptr hand (MR-WL) and move up one place (meas 7-8).

9-16   All assume closed pos with ptr. Cpls 1 and cpls 2 dance once CCW around each other (turning CW) with balance steps. Cpls 1 (below cpls 2) begin ML-WR; cpls 2 begin MR-WL. Finish again in lines, cpls in exchanged places.

             When cpl 2 reaches the top of the set and cpl 1 reaches the bottom, they remain inactive until the next progression. At this time bottom cpl 1 becomes cpl 2 and progresses twd the top, while cpl 2 at the top becomes cpl 1 to move down the set.