

Baile da Camacha

Presented by: Bea Montross, 1981 — A Portuguese couple dance from Madeira, Portugal

Formation: 4 to 6 couples arranged in contra-dance position, a line of M facing a line of W

Style: Shoulders relaxed, arms swing with the movement of the body, fingers snapping to accent the beat of the music.

Elbows bent and hands held shoulder height. *Steps:* A step-hop on the flat of the foot is used throughout. On the hop the bent knee and foot are lifted under the body, the sole of the foot is always toward the floor. Both M and W begin R foot. *Introduction:* none

Measure FIG. 1—FOUR HAND STAR

1–8 Starting at the head of the set 2 couples form a R hand star without joining hands. L hand is at shoulder height snapping fingers. If there is an odd couple at the foot of the set, they dance together following all directions for a 4 hand star. Dancers dance 16 step-hops CW

9–16 Dance 16 step-hops CCW in L hand star

CHORUS

1 Both M and W back away from partner with 2 step-hops

2 Both move toward partner with 2 step-hops

3–4 With weight on L, point R toe and tap it 4 times (R toe of M & W are almost side by side)

5–8 REPEAT measures 1–4 of CHORUS

FIG. 2—WOMAN TURNS & CROSS HAND TURN

1–2 Partners join R hands and W turn CW under joined hands with 4 step-hops, back of L hand on hip, while M does 4 step-hops in place.

3–4 With both hands on hips W turn CW in place with 4 step-hops while M does 4 step-hops in place

5–8 With both arms at shoulder height partners circle each other CW with 8 step-hops. (With 4 step-hops partners have changed places, continually facing each other. With 4 more they return to place.)

9–12 Partners join hands crossed, R with R over L with L. Keep elbows level with wrists and sway together as couples turn CW once in place with 8 step-hops

13–15 REPEAT measures 5–7 FIG 2 except that partners change places with 3 step-hops and return to place with 3 step-hops

16 Both M and W individually turn CW in place with 2 step-hops

17–24 REPEAT action of measures 1–8 of CHORUS

FIG. 3—SMALL CIRCLES

1–2 M make a circle, W make a separate circle. To form the circles the first and last dancers move toward each other; center dancers move backward away from line.

3–12 Place hands on neighbors shoulders and circle CW 3 or 4 times

13–16 Break the circle and return to original places

The entire figure is danced with 32 step-hops

CHORUS WITH CROSS OVER

1–2 Partners change places with 3 step-hops circling each other CW,

approach each other with 1 step-hop

3–4 REPEAT action of measures 3–4 of original CHORUS

5–8 REPEAT action of measures 1–4 of CHORUS WITH CROSS OVER

FIG. 4—WOMAN TURNS & CROSS HAND TURN

1–16 REPEAT measures 1–16 FIG. 2

17–24 REPEAT measures 1–8 of original CHORUS

FIG. 5—LARGE CIRCLE

1–8 Lines of M & W approach each other. M turns to face same direction as W and slip into single line with his partner on his R. Ends close in to form a circle and all dance CW with 16 step-hops

9–16 Reverse direction dancing 16 step-hops CCW, M pursuing W who turns at will either CW or CCW flirtatiously. Snap fingers throughout

17–24 REPEAT measures 1–8 of original CHORUS except that all dancers move backward away from center of circle. (Partners are not facing each other)

Dance ends with all R toes tapping toward center of circle. 9–16 REPEAT Part 2, measures 1–8

REPEAT the entire dance from the beginning