

January 17, 2003



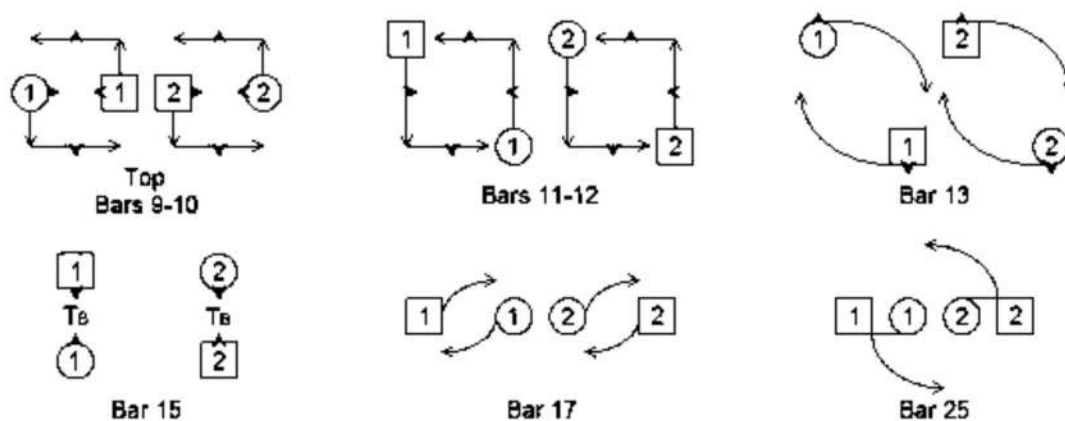
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Gypsy Dreams

A 32 bar strathspey for 2 couples
by [Terry Glasspool](#)

- 1- 4 First couple **cross giving right hands** in passing and *face down*. First man and second woman, also first woman and second man, **turn with left hands, halfway**, to end with the men facing out.
- 5- 8 All **chase counterclockwise** one place, then **turn partner three quarters with the left hand** to finish in a line of four across the set. The women are back to back in the middle, the men are facing their partner.
- 9-16 First couple, also second couple, dance an **Individual, or Gypsy, Pousette** which is easier to describe as two four-bar figures:
- Box setting:**
- 9 All set to the right and turn one-quarter, pulling back right shoulder, "on the hop."
10 All set to the left (facing away from partner) and turn one-quarter, pulling back right shoulder.
- 11 All set to the right (facing partner, the men passing back to back in the middle) and turn one-quarter, pulling back right shoulder.
- 12 All set to the left (facing away from partner) and *do not turn*. Partners finish facing away from each other but are not lined up back to back.
- Gypsy turn:**
- 13-14 Starting by dancing to their own right, partners dance around each other halfway (the second step will automatically bring them face to face) and ...
15-16 melt into a two hand turn, three quarters round, to finish facing each other in a line across the set with the men back to back in the middle.
- 17-24 All dance a **reel of four across the dance**. On bar 24, after passing by the left, the men remain shoulder to shoulder, dancing around each other, while the women extend the ending loops of their reel to join their partners in promenade hold. First couple is facing up, second couple down.
- 25-32 On bar 25, both couples **promenade** around each other one quarter, with the men staying shoulder to shoulder, into position to dance the last seven bars of the **Tournée**.

Repeat, having passed a couple.



Music:

- A smooth strathspey or slow airs, not too heavy on the bass line, with a playing time between 8:10 and 8:30.
- For example: "Birks of Invermay" on Scottish Dance Music by Tersipchore, Terpsichore CD or cassette.

Notes:

- Bars 1-4 may also be thought of as a "progressive" half rights and lefts, well rounded on bars 3-4.
- The setting step on bar 9 should be shorter than the following three. (The men will quickly discover that their setting step on bar 10 must also be controlled.)
- Partners should not dance toward each other during bar 13 but dance around each other, maintaining the distance needed for the following turn.

Once, while daydreaming, I began to think about setting and the last 24 bars of this dance suddenly "happened" – in about five minutes. It took another day to write the "simple" first figure. In addition to the "gypsy meltdown" in bars 13-16, the dance owes its name to being tested with the Terpsichore recording of "Birks of Invermay," which gave the dance a dreamy, almost ethereal, quality.

This dance has been published in my second collection, An Itch to Dance.

All comments are welcome. Please contact me at: tglasspool@stny.rr.com

Please click below to see the Gypsy Poussette as performed by the Ithaca Scottish Country Dancers at the Ithaca Festival ("[All the time in the world](#)"), June 3, 2000.

- The video clip is 28 seconds long and shows bars 5 through 20 from the bottom of the set. Due to quality and copyright concerns, there is no sound track.
- There are three formats available. They are all the same size and approximate quality, so pick the one best suited to your system.

Format	Size	Comments
Windows AVI	2.7 MB	Should work on any Windows 95 (or follow on) system.
QuickTime	2.1 MB	For the Macintosh and other systems using the QuickTime plug-in .
QuickTime	3.6 MB	As above, but will work with older versions of QuickTime.

- The AVI file took me almost 20 minutes to upload by modem with a 44K connection. The size is a compromise between viewability, video quality and transmission time. In particular, there is an appearance of leaping caused by the 7.5 fps frame rate.
 - This is my first attempt at video generation so please feel free make comments about it independently of the dance content. I am especially interested in your thoughts on the usability of the file size and my choice of video format.
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