

The "Hitch - Hiker"

A very simple novelty type dance, especially suitable for teen-agers, parties, "one-night stands", etc.

Recommended Record: "Tennessee Saturday Night" (Decca 46292, Decca 46136, Western Jubilee 707); also other similar records.

Formation: Can be done anywhere in the hall at random, but works best if dancers start from the usual circle of couples, boys inside.

Position: Partners face each other, about 2 feet apart; lean slightly forward.

PARTS

DANCE PATTERN

I - a: Each dancer hops backward twice, clapping hands each time;
b: "Hitch-hike" (thumb) motion over Right shoulder with Right thumb, at the same time turning Right toes up and out, keeping Right heel on floor; this hitching motion is done twice, in time with music.

II - a: Repeat I - a;

- b: Repeat I - b, but using Left thumb, Left shoulder, Left toes.

III - a: Repeat I - a;

b: Repeat I - b, but using BOTH thumbs, BOTH shoulders, BOTH toes, all simultaneously!

(NOTE: By this time, partners are 6 hops apart!)

IV: Return to Partner with 4 two-steps, using plenty of arm and hand gestures, such as swinging arms (elbows bent) in front of body, etc.

Or, instead of just returning to place, each dancer can cross over into partner's place, passing Right shoulders, or hooking Right elbows and turning partner once or twice around.

Or, the dance may be done progressively (as a mixer) by having each dancer move toward the next person on the return trip; if each one approaches the person on their Left, the Boys will progress forward in the circle, the Girls progressing to the boys who were following them.

(NOTE: This is not a traditional folk dance, so use your imagination!)
For instance -- the dance is more fun when the hops are done as "chugs" by making short jumps backward on both feet while leaning slightly forward!

(NOTE: The Decca has a good introduction, instrumental; start dancing on the first vocal; after dancing thru 3 full patterns, you will find that the 4th repeat of the pattern starts again with a vocal; this vocal "cue" occurs again for the 7th and 10th patterns. Altogether, there are ten and three-quarters patterns on the record)