

Gypsy Tap and Gipsy Tap

There are two sets of instructions provided. One for the “Gypsy Tap” as it is danced in Bush, Old Time and New Vogue Dances around Australia and even overseas, this being one of the few Australian dances to be well known in other countries.

The second set of instructions is for the original “Gipsy Tap”. This was the spelling used by the dance’s author, Professor John Bolot, when he wrote the dance in the early 1930’s. Professor Bolot owned a dance studio in Oxford Street, Sydney. (Downstairs from the dance studio there was a gymnasium. The Professor spent his spare time there and, as a result, was very strong. He was known to physically throw out drunk and noisy patrons who caused trouble in his studio!)

The two versions of the dance are compatible on the dance floor and use the same music. Therefore decide with your partner which version you would like to dance. You can even choose to dance both alternately!

The original dance is more energetic than the modern version.

Both dances start in ballroom hold with the man facing the wall. As usual, The Line of Dance (LOD) is anticlockwise around the room.

Gypsy Tap (Modern Dance)

Description	Calls	Bars
Take two side-close steps along the LOD	“Side-together, side-together”	2 bars
Stay in ballroom hold, but turn to face LOD. Start on outside foot, take four walking steps, on the fourth step turning to face your partner and close the feet.	“Walk, two, three, together”	2 bars
Repeat the previous 4 bars	As above	4 bars
Repeat the previous 8 bars against the LOD (other foot), finishing holding inside hands with partner and facing LOD.	“Back the other way”	8 bars
Step (LOD) diagonally away from your partner on the outside foot and tap (toe on the floor) the inside foot alongside the outside foot, pushing the joined hand forward. (You are now slightly back-to-back with your partner). Now step (LOD) diagonally toward your partner on the inside foot and tap the outside foot alongside the inside foot. (You are now facing your partner.)	“Step, tap, step, tap”	2 bars
Drop hands and solo turn away from your partner using four walking steps as you move LOD.	“Turn, two, three, four”	2 bars
Repeat previous four bars.	“Step, tap, step, tap, turn, two, three, four”	4 bars
In half ballroom hold with your partner, and starting outside foot, take three walking steps LOD and lift the inside foot. Starting on this foot take three steps backward against LOD and on the fourth step close the feet and move into ballroom hold with your partner, man facing wall.	“Forward, two, three, lift. Back, two, three, together”	4 bars
Rotary chasses two turns, finishing with man facing the wall (and still in ballroom hold) ready to start the dance sequence again.	“Rotary Chasses”	4 bars
Total		32 bars

Gipsy Tap (Original Dance)

The first 16 bars are identical to the modern version of the dance.

Description	Calls	Bars
Take two side-close steps along the LOD	"Side-together, side-together"	2 bars
Stay in ballroom hold, but turn to face LOD. Start on outside foot, take four walking steps, on the fourth step turning to face your partner and close the feet.	"Walk, two, three, together"	2 bars
Repeat the previous 4 bars	As above	4 bars
Repeat the previous 8 bars against the LOD (other foot), finishing holding inside hands with partner and facing LOD.	"Back the other way"	8 bars
Starting on the outside foot, dance a bush dance setting step (2 bars). During the first bar, push the joined hands forward, so as to finish back-to-back with your partner (1 bar). On the second bar, push the joined hands back against LOD, so as to finish facing your partner (1 bar). Move slightly LOD on both these steps.	"Back-to-back and face-to-face"	2 bars
Drop hands and starting on the outside foot, dance a solo turn away from your partner using a bush dance setting step and travelling LOD. After the first bar you will be back-to-back with your partner (1 bar). After the second bar you will both be facing LOD (1 bar)	"Turn, two, three. Turn, two, three."	2 bars
Repeat the previous four bars.	As above.	4 bars
<i>(Professor Bolot claimed that the dance movements in the previous eight bars were taken from "Gipsy" traditional dancing. Hence the name of the dance.)</i>		
With inside hands joined and both facing LOD, starting on outside foot, take three steps LOD then place the inside foot against the ankle of the outside foot, drop hands and pivot on outside foot (turning toward your partner) to face against LOD.	"Walk, two, three, pivot."	2 bars
Repeat the previous two bars against LOD, finishing facing partner and moving into ballroom hold	"Walk, two, three and face."	2 bars
Rotary chasses two turns, finishing with man facing the wall (and still in ballroom hold) ready to start the dance sequence again.	"Rotary Chasses"	4 bars
Total		32 bars