

Crumbling Away

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Destruction tested by the White Rats. *Last revised: 3 March, 2006*

Style: Border

Set: square set of four

Props: two short sticks or hand clapping

Rest position for sticks is held straight up in front of self, forearms parallel to the ground, keep elbows tucked in, pull sticks in towards shoulders as necessary for figures. When danced as a hand clapping dance, hands are clenched into loose fists and arms pump in a natural motion with steps (ie, Right foot up, Left hand up/Left foot down, Right hand down. Next step: Left foot up, Right hand up/Right foot down, Left hand down).

Stepping: single steps, right footed. Steps are large and stompy, free foot is kept in front of the body whenever possible, knees are high.

(8--16) Opening: Spiral On

Dancers come on in a straight line, ordered 1, 3, 4, 2 and spiral into a ring and form up into a square set of four. *Optional:* As the dancers start to spiral into the ring, they each put in their right hand with the stick pointing straight into the center of the circle (rather like a **Wheel** figure). Sticks snap up to rest position as the set forms, preferably on beat 7 or 8 before the Chorus starts.

(16) Chorus

(1-4) Sticking

Note: there is no stepping during the sticking!

(1) Stick Right, Left with Partner

(2) Face up and down set and stick Right, Left up and down line

(3-4) Face partner again, stick Together (self), Right (partner), Together, Left with partner

(5-8) Half Hey

(5) Everyone passes Right shoulders while clashing Right sticks high to turn hard right and start a Reel for Four along the longways line of the set.

(6-7) Half Hey continues, clash sticks as you pass, dancers on ends clash Together

(8) As you get into set position, clash Together, then both sticks with your partner. First Corners clash out, Second Corners clash in.

(9-16) Sticking and Half Hey

Repeat from inverted set positions.

General note: First Corners must get out of the way to clear the center of the set for the Second Corners to do their last crossing in the Hey. First Corners can then step back into set position.

(8) Figure 1: Crossovers

Note: Right Footed!

(1-2) Everyone dances straight into the middle (2 steps) and passes Right shoulders in the center as they pivot on the Right foot to back out to their diagonal's position (2) steps. Clash Together on step 4.

(3-4) Repeat to home

(5-6) Repeat to diagonal's spot again

(7-8) Repeat back to home. Step in to start chorus.

(16) Chorus

(8 bars) Figure 2: Gears

General notes: The shoulder crosses in this figure are the same as in a hey for 4—Right on the ends, Left in the middle. Sticking always starts with the Right stick on Beat 1 of a phrase.

Keep stepping all through this figure! This is not a symmetrical figure, timing is different for first and second corners. You have been warned.

I will count steps/strikes for this figure to keep everyone from getting hopelessly confused:

- (1) Everyone passes Right shoulders with their partner to form one line up and down the set. Order is 1, 2, 3, 4 with 2 and 3 facing each other in the middle, 1 and 4 facing out.
- (2-5) Second Corners clash alternating sticks in the middle starting Left while First Corners cast hard over Left shoulder to dance around the set to the other end of the line.
- (6) Second Corners cross with each other, passing Left shoulders (middle)
- (7) Second Corners cross with First Corners, passing Right shoulders (ends)
- (4 bars) (8) First Corners meet as new middles. Don't clash on 8! Instead, the new ends (Second Corners) face out and clash Together on 8.
- (1-7) Figure begins again with new middles (First Corners).
- (4 bars) (8) Everyone goes home on 8 instead of last cross and clashes Together to end figure. Second Corners do strikes 7 and 8 while getting into set position (don't try and get into a straight line again).

(16) Chorus

(8) Figure 3: Petronella

Notes: rotation in this figure is counterclockwise. *Right-footed figure.*

Everyone casts over Left shoulder to progress one position to their right in the set. Dance straight forward towards your new position, then turn over your left shoulder to face across the set on your new spot on 4. Clash Together on beat 4 when you get into your new spot. Half your turns will be 1/4 turns, half of them 3/4 turns, depending on where you are in the set at a given time. Keep your turns tight and the set square.

- (1-2) Cast over Left shoulder and progress to next spot on your Right in set.
- (&1) Spot turn in place (hard cast over Left shoulder), right foot comes down for first step on Beat 1.
- (2-3) Dance straight ahead to next position
- (4) Turn over Left shoulder into new position, Clash Together
- (3-4) Cast over Left shoulder to progress to next spot to the right
- (5-6) and again
- (7-8) and one last time to get back home

(16) Chorus

Ends with clash Together then Right high with your partner (instead of both) to pass through and straight out into the crowd.