

CICERENNELLA

History: This dance is better known as the “Neapolitan Tarantella” (one of many Italian Tarantellas), and during the Middle Ages, it was reputed to have the magic power to ward off the effects of the poisonous spider - the tarantula, hence its name.

Formation: Couples in double circle, partners facing each other, M w/backs to center.
W has tambourine in L hand.

Measures

PART 1

- 1-4 Facing partners, do “pas de bas” - starting to own R (R, L, R, L). This may be described as a “step-swing” (step on R, hop on R, swinging L across in front, then do same on L, and REPEAT both).
- 5-8 Place R arm around partner’s waist, and L hand high, do 4 step-hops (R, L, R, L), turning once CW.
- 9-16 REPEAT action of 1-8.

PART 2

- 1-4 Couples face CCW, inside hands joined. M takes 8 steps in place as W runs FWD and around him, passing joined hands over his head, in 8 steps.
- 5-8 Partners do “pas de bas” (step-swing) apart (M’s L, W’s R), and together (M’s R, W’s L), and then turn completely away- M to L and L to R w/4 steps.
- 9-16 REPEAT action of 1-8

PART 3

- 1-4 Bending FWD w/arms extended FWD, partners take 4 steps FWD.
They straighten up, take 4 steps BKWD.
- 5-8 They walk FWD, do a R-shoulder do-si-do, back-to-back w/8 steps.
- 9-16 REPEAT action of 1-8, with a L-shoulder do-si-do.

PART 4

- 1-8 In closed dance position, couples do 6 polka steps, turning and travelling CCW.
W twirls under M’s L hand.
- 9-16 Polka and twirl and end are REPEATED.

NOTE: Tambourine should be shaken throughout the dance to mark rhythm, and struck to accent musical phrase or melody.

