

Balance the Straw

Fieldtown stick dance

Concise description

Figures: Standard Fieldtown

Foot Up/Down; Half gyp; Back-to-back; Rounds

Chorus: Stick-striking (described below) with half hey after each figure. Note that this sticking and half-hey pattern is danced twice, so all end in original places ready for the next figure.

Sticking pattern for chorus:

Reach back, strike floor with butt of stick, then strike floor again at your side. Strike tip of partner's stick forehand, then strike tip backhand.

Reach back, strike floor with butt of stick, then strike floor again at your side. Strike tip of partner's stick forehand 3 times (syncopated)

Detailed description

At end of introductory music, no hop-backs, just jump and strike sticks. Strike sticks halfway through, and again at the end of every figure

1st figure:

Foot up (two double steps), hop back + clash sticks

Foot down (two double steps), hop back + clash sticks

Chorus: Sticking, half-hey, Sticking, half-hey
(details of sticking are above)

2nd figure: Half-gyp [pass partner by right shldr, then come straight back]
Repeat passing left shoulders

Chorus: Sticking, half-hey, Sticking, half-hey

3rd figure: Back to back [pass partner by right shldr the first time]
Repeat passing left shoulders

Chorus: Sticking, half-hey, Sticking, half-hey

4th figure: Half-Rounds (circle left halfway, clump, hop-back to new place)
Half-rounds back (retrace your steps, clump, hop-back to place)

Chorus: Sticking, half-hey, Sticking, half-hey, and end with 4 plain capers and strike sticks (end holding sticks up, crossed with partner).