



Edinburgh University Swing Dance  
Society notes on:  
**The Charleston Stroll**  
(‘put a lid on it’)



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This was choreographed originally by Sing Lim, to *Put a lid on it* by the Squirrel Nut Zippers. It was brought to Edinburgh by Matt and Sarah, by which time it has mutated slightly. These notes set out the Sing Lim version, but mention the variations commonly-danced in Edinburgh, Leeds, Worcester etc., in *orange italics*. For orientation purposes, these notes consider the dancers to begin facing North

- 8) 20s Charletson, beginning facing North with a forward tap on right foot. On the 7, turn out a little a/c with the left foot to facilitate a 90 deg turn.
- 8) ditto, now facing West
- 8) ditto, now facing South
- 8) Keeping weight on left leg, tap right leg 4 times (*var: twiddle bent right leg behind you*) and have hands on hips (*var: twiddle your R finger high*). As you do, turn 180deg a/c to face North again.
  
- 8) Hitch – first with your weight on your L foot, your R leg going in and out and your R hand high, thumb down, and your L hand behind your back, thumb up. Step on R on 4, then hitch in mirror image to the above, stepping on L on 8.
- 8) Step back on R on 1 and shimmy, step back on L on 3 and shimmy. On 4, pivot 180 deg a/c on your feet where they are and on 5-8 do a syncopated clap-clap—clap. You are facing South. (*var: turn a/c on the step on 3 and frog on 5; still clap*).
- 8) Hitch – first with your weight on your R foot, your L leg going in and out and your L hand high, thumb down, and your R hand behind your back, thumb up. Step on L on 4, then hitch in mirror image to the above, stepping on R on 8. (*var: do it the same way you did 2 8s ago rather than mirror reverse*)
- 8) Step back on L on 1 and shimmy, step back on R on 3 and shimmy. On 4, pivot 180 deg c/w on your feet where they are and on 5-8 do a syncopated clap-clap—clap. You are facing South. (*var: do it the same way you did 2 8s ago rather than mirror reverse*)
  
- 8) Bend over; bring your R hand round in an arc to reach to your R ankle, then your L arm to your L ankle, then your R arm to smack your R buttock, then you L arm for your L buttock
- 8) 1-2 Ladies “row” – hips back, arms forward, say “ooh!” and men ‘row’ hips forward arms back in silence; then (3-4) swap positions and men say “aah”; repeat with the same sounds. (*var: men use same movements as ladies by still phase the ooh-ahh*)
- 8) 1-2 Karate Kid (both hands up, right knee up) (*var: Shelf -hands high and flat to left, right knee up*); 3-4 Expectant Mother (stomach forward, hands on hips) (*also called Frankie Howard in the UK*); 5-6 hide (knees and arms in, head down, making yourself small); Cheeky (look out from hands, knees together) (*var: frog*).
- 8) Tick tock to right
  
- 8) Turn NW. 1 Kick R across L, 2 hop on L, 3 bring R back and step on it, 4 kick L out to L, 5 step on L, 6 swing R up to launch into the air, land on L on 8 (*var: 1-4 scoop R foot out and back, 5-8 repeat, but with a hop-ball-change*).

- 8) Spiderman (feet to sugar foot walk on spot, arms do inwards circles as if cleaning a window, start pointing feet to right)
- 8) Turn NW. 1 Kick R across L, 2 hop on L, 3 bring R back and step on it, 4 kick L out to L, (*var: Scoop again 1-4 as above*): 5 - pose with left hand behind hip as in Frankie Howard, right hand with elbow flexed and hand flat as if supporting a tray, knees together, looking R
- 8) Walk RLRL flapping arms (hands near hips) like chicken wings (*var: Girly run, 270 deg c/w*).

Start the whole dance again now facing West.

Sources:

<http://www.theswingdancecompany.co.uk/forum/viewtopic.php?t=81>

<http://en.kendincos.net/video-nfpdlnr-debbie-garvey-demonstrates-sing-lim-s-charleston-stroll-avi.html>