



## Edinburgh University Swing Dance Society notes on:



# The Stroll (original)

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### History:

The original Stroll became a (USA) national craze following its 1957 appearance on the American Bandstand TV programme, hosted by Dick Clark. It was developed by Joan Buck and Jimmy Peatross from the Lincoln High School in Philadelphia, where it was filmed for Bandstand. It arose as a modification of Strip the Willow. In the film, it was danced to Chuck Willis' CC Rider: The Diamonds' track 'The Stroll' came later, in December 1957. It was always a contra dance, as set out here. In the UK, though, people often dance a simplified form explained on the companion sheet to this one. We are grateful to Mark Cotgrove for historical information.



Music: Usually "The Stroll" by Donnie Elbert

### Steps:

Start off standing in two contra lines, boys in one line and girls in the other, facing (see above), weight on R. Once the first verse has gone, the man at the left hand end of the man's row and lady at the R end of hers steps into the aisle to do the 'aisle walk' – a **6-beat** pattern, which will feel syncopated across the beats – and joins the other end of the line as they reach it; they always leave on the 4<sup>th</sup> beat of the basic (shown here in italics for the 2<sup>nd</sup> basic). Variations are common in the stroll, including holding for the walk bracketed below (which has the effect of reversing footwork and body rotation for each tuck).

- 1 Tap R (♀L) in front of L (♀R)
- 2 Tap R (♀L) to R (♀L)
- 3 Tap R (♀L) in front of L (♀R) again
- 4 Step R (♀L) on R (♀L)
- 5 Cross on L (♀R) behind R (♀L)
- 6 Open on R (♀L) to R (♀L)
- 7 Tap L (♀R) in front of R (♀L)
- 8 Tap L (♀R) to L (♀R)
- 9 Tap L (♀R) in front of R (♀L)
- 10 Step on L (♀R) to L (♀R)
- 11 Cross on R (♀L) behind L (♀R)
- 12 Open on L (♀R) to L (♀R)

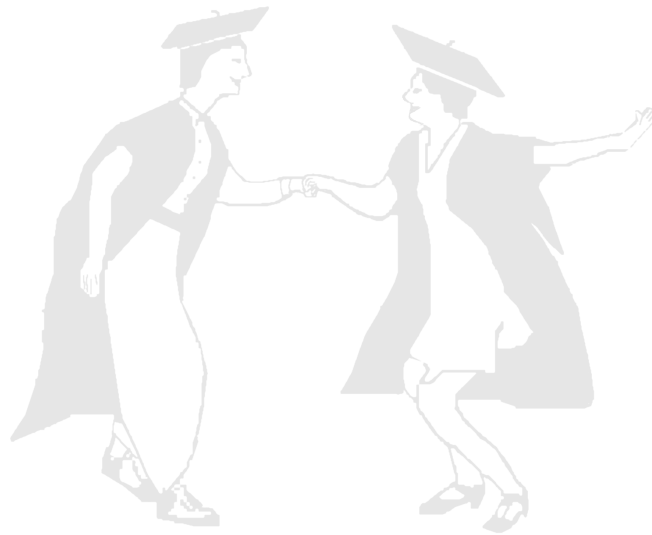
- 1 Tap R (♀L) in front of L (♀R)
- 2 Tap R (♀L) to R (♀L)
- 3 Tap R (♀L) in front of L (♀R) again
- 4 Step R (♀L) on R (♀L)
- 5 Cross on L (♀R) behind R (♀L)

*Step fwd on R (♀L) foot into lane  
Turning 90 deg to right (♀left), step on L(♀R) behind R (♀L)*

6 Open on R (♀L) to R (♀L)  
7 Tap L (♀R) in front of R (♀L)  
8 Tap L (♀R) to L (♀R)  
9 Tap L (♀R) in front of R (♀L)  
10 Step on L (♀R) to L (♀R)  
11 Cross on R (♀L) behind L (♀R)  
12 Open on L (♀R) to L (♀R)

*walk fwd (down lane) R (♀L)*  
*walk fwd (down lane) L (♀R)*  
*Tuck R (♀L) behind L (♀R)*  
*Step fwd (down lane) L (♀R) and repeat the walk (walk) tuck walk*

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