

OVER THE TOP  
Old Time English

The arranger of this dance is not definitely established. The dance gained popularity in England during the First World War. During the 1920's and 1930's interest in the dance diminished. Then in 1949-50 it was reintroduced to England's Old Time Dancers during a radio program by Sydney and Mary Thompson. "Its revival was immediately a success with the first week's requests for scrips for the pattern amounting to some four thousand copies." It is still widely danced in England as a couple dance and in some groups as a progressive dance.

Music: Records - Over the Top, Decca 28887. Music is Fire on the Horizon by Knorr, arranged by Hartmann. Sydney Thompson's Olde-Tyme Dance Orchestra (reverse side is Lilac Waltz).  
Le Militaire - Parlophone R-3502. Music, Out of the Blue. Sydney Thompson's Olde-Tyme Dance Orchestra. (Reverse side is Doris Waltz)

Steps: Walking step, pas de basque, balance, two-step.

Style: Danced with flowing movement but definitely on the beat.

Formation: Couples facing LOD, inside hands joined shoulder height. Outside hands are free.

Meas.

Four Introduction, for both Decca and Parlophone records.

1-4 Starting outside ft. take 4 walking steps fwd closing on the 4th step. Pas de basque to M's L (W's R); pas de basque to M's R (W's L).

5-8 Walk fwd L, R, turning to face partner, join both hands (M's back to center); step L to side, close R to L, pas de basque to M's L (W's R), pas de basque to M's R (W's L).

9-12 Balance fwd, M's L (W's R) bringing R hips almost adjacent; balance bkwd M's R (W's L).

Release rearward hands (M's R, W's L). With 2 two-steps the W makes one complete turn to the R under the fwd joined hands (M's L, W's R) while the M at the same time takes a step to the side with L, closes R to L, and repeats L to side, close R.

13-16 Take waltz position, dance 4 two-steps progressing along LOD, making 2 turns to R. Finish in position to repeat dance from the beginning.

To dance progressively, on meas. 11-12 the W turns under the joined fwd arms which are quickly released, as she turns R progressing CCW in circle to new partner (2 two-steps). The M dances LR LR in place. The 4 turning two-steps are danced with the new partner.

--presented by Lucile Czarnowski

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