

Heel and Toe Clog Steps

These steps were collected from two dancers by Julian Pilling in 1959. The steps were later published in Pilling, J., "The Lancashire Clog Dance", *Folk Music Journal*, 1, 3 (1967) 166, 173-4. The notation is, for its time, excellent, although naturally there are some inconsistencies and uncertainties. However Julian Pilling was filmed by Roy Dommett on Sunday 6th September 1964 at the Durham Ring Meeting, run by the Morris Ring. The dance was filmed without music, but serves to resolve many of the issues with the published notations. All these resources are available on the Instep Research Team website.

Step 1 was collected from Mrs C. Goodwin of Blackburn, Lancashire.. She had been taught in the early 1930s by a dancer named Jackie Smith. She was the daughter of Bob Vause, who she said was a "Lancashire Champion Clog Dancer". It is implied that she performed with her father when they danced unaccompanied (they practised to a metronome!). She called clog dancing "buck and wing" dancing, which also apparently referred to a specific step.

Steps 2 - 4 together with a finish were collected from Upton Hobson of Colne, Lancashire. He was born in Rawtenstall in 1891 and by 1911 was living with his mother Sarah Ann and his siblings. He was a French polisher by trade operating from a shop in Colne. He had been taught by a Dot Arlin in about 1905 apparently at the gymnasium in Nelson. He considered himself to be a comic dancer and did acrobatics as well as clog and sand dances. He also performed as a duet with his teacher.

The source(s) of steps 5 and 6 is not known.

In his article Pilling records that the steps were performed without music.

The Film.

Film step 1 - Step 1 - presumably shot commencing halfway through the step as we see the unit only twice, starting on the R foot. followed by the finish also starting on the R foot. The complete step and finish is then repeated off the L foot.

Film step 2 - Step 2b, starting catching out with the R foot , followed by the finish. All repeated starting catching out with the L foot.

Film step 3 - Step 3 off the L foot followed by the finish off the R foot. All repeated off the R foot.

Film step 4 - Step 5 off the R foot with the finish also off the right. Not repeated.

Film step 5 - Step 6 . No finish. This cross-polka step seems to be out of place in a heel and toe routine.

Step 1 from C. Goodwin

1	<u>spring</u>		A	:	
2		<u>step</u>		:	A
3		<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
4		-		:	
5	<u>step</u>		A	:	
6		<u>step</u>		:	A
7	<u>step</u>		A	:	
8		-		:	

Step is twice through off alternate feet.

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 173. Foot positions are taken from the film of the collector dancing the step in 1964. The step is notated as normal starting with the left foot, however the collector records in the article that the step commences with the right.
2. No finish is given in the published version, a finish from Upton Hobson being suggested.
3. The step as notated takes four bars. The recommended finish takes four bars, making up the normal eight.

Step 2a from Upton Hobson

1		catch out		RC↑, A, C↑↑
2	<u>hop</u>		A	A
3		<u>step</u>		A
4				A
5	catch out		RC↑, A, C↑↑	A
6		<u>hop</u>		A
7	<u>step</u>			A
8				A

Step is twice through off alternate feet and finish

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 174. Foot positions are taken from the film of the collector dancing the a variation on this step in 1964.
2. It will be noted that the step only uses four bars of music as given. The recommended finish also takes four bars, making up the normal eight.
3. At the start of the step the the dancer the dancer commences the catch out in A↑ rather than in RC↑. Probably simply a performance error.
4. Pilling records that the step was used to make sparks if dancing on a suitable surface.

Step 2b from Upton Hobson

1		catch out		RC↑, A, C↑↑
2	<u>hop</u>		A	
3	↑	<u>spring</u>	RC↑↑	A
4	tip tap		RC	
5	catch out		RC↑, A, C↑↑	
6		<u>hop</u>		A
7	<u>spring</u>		A	
8		tip tap		RC

Step is twice through off alternate feet and finish

Notes:

1. This is taken from the film of the collector dancing in 1964. It appears to be a development of stp 2a. It is not referred to in FMJ 1, 3 (1967).
2. It will be noted that the step only uses four bars of music as given. The recommended finish also takes four bars, making up the normal eight.
3. At the start of the step the the dancer the dancer commences the catch out in A↑ rather than in RC↑. The finish appears to be danced one beat too early on the film. Both probably simply performance errors
4. Pilling records that the step was used to make sparks if dancing on a suitable surface.

Step 3 from Upton Hobson

a	(hop) <u>spring</u>		A	:	X \bar{C} ↑
1		↑		:	X \bar{C} ↑, X \bar{C} , X \bar{D}/\bar{H}
2	↑	catch out	RC/D↑↑↑	:	X \bar{C}
3	<u>spring</u>	<u>spring</u>	A	:	
4		-		:	

Step is four times through off the same foot and finish and repeat off the other foot

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 174. Foot positions are taken from the film of the collector dancing the step in 1964.
2. The repeat pattern given in FMJ is four times through off alternate feet, not what the dancer does on the film.
3. It will be noted that the step only uses four bars of music as given. The recommended finish also takes four bars, making up the normal eight.
4. When the step is performed starting stepping L the finish is performed off the R foot and *vice versa*. Pilling records that the step was used to make sparks if dancing on a suitable surface.

Step 4 from Upton Hobson

1	<u>heel step</u>	|		|	C/	|		|
2		|	<u>heel step =</u>	|	C/	|	·	|
3	<u>heel swivel click toes =</u>				C/,C/	|	·	|
4						|	·	|
5	<u>step</u>	|		|	C/	|	·	|
6		|	<u>step</u>	|		|	·	|
7	<u>swivel click heels =</u>				C/,C/	|	·	|
8						|	·	|

Step is twice through off the same foot and finish and repeat of the other foot.

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 174. Not on the 1964 film.
2. It will be noted that the step only uses four bars of music as given. The recommended finish also takes four bars, making up the normal eight.
3. The step is given as normal in Newcastle Notation notated off the left foot. The collector noted that the dancer commenced with the right foot.

Step 5 Source Unknown

a	(hop) <u>spring</u>	↑	A	:	X̄C̄
1		catch out		:	X̄C̄↑, X̄C̄, X̄D̄/H̄
2	↑	<u>spring</u>	RC/D↑↑↑	:	X̄C̄
3	<u>spring</u>		A	:	
4		heel tap		:	X̄C̄
5		tap		:	X̄C̄
6		tap		:	X̄C̄
7		heel tap		:	X̄C̄
8				:	

Step is twice through off the same foot and finish

Notes:

1. This is not published in FMJ 1, 3 (1967) and its source has not been traced. The step is thus notated from rom the film of the collector dancing the step in 1964. On the film the step is shown commencing on the R foot with the finish also starting with the R. The step is not repeated.

Step 6 Source Unknown

a	spring (<u>hop</u>)	|		A	:		A	:	X̄C	A	:	
1		|	jump=	A	:		A	:		A	:	
2	<u>hop</u>	|		A	:		A	:		A	:	
3		|		A	:		A	:		A	:	
4		|	spring	A	:		A	:		A	:	
		|	-	A	:		A	:		A	:	

Step irepeated off alternate feet

Notes:

1. This is not published in FMJ 1, 3 (1967) and its source has not been traced. The step is thus notated from rom the film of the collector dancing the step in 1964.
2. Unfortunately the film cuts out before we reach any possible finish. The step is of course a straightforward croos polka of the type used by many North West morris teams.

Finish from Upton Hobson

1		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
2			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
3	)	shuffle		C,C	:	
4)				:	
5		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
6			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
7		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
8			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
1	)	shuffle		C,C	:	
2)				:	
3		<u>step</u>		A	:	
4					:	

Notes:

1. This is taken more or less from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 173. Foot positions are taken from the film of the collector dancing the step in 1964.
2. Unfortunately the notation does not really make sense. The finish is stated to take four bars, but as notated it only takes three. Happily the situation is resolved by viewing the film when the finish is performed thus:

1		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
2			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
3	)	shuffle		È.C	:	
4)				:	
5		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
6			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
7	)	shuffle		È.C	:	
8)				:	
1		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
2			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
3		<u>step</u>		RB/C	:	
4			<u>heel drop</u>		:	A
5	)	shuffle		C,C	:	
6)				:	
7		<u>step</u>		A	:	
8					:	