

Balance the Straw

Tune: *Balance the Straw* (traditional) **Source:** traditional **Chorus:** dib (behind), dib (front) clash (forehand), clash (backhand), [half hey](#). Repeat. **Figures:** [once to yourself](#), [foot up & down](#), [half gyp](#), [back-to-back](#), [rounds](#)

Detailed Description

Chorus

Chorus: dib butt of stick behind, dib butt of stick in front, clash forehand, clash backhand, [half hey](#). Repeat.

Figures

Once to Yourself

Hankie dances: stand in position, trying not to look stupid. Five beats before the end of the tune, bring the hankies up to chest-level and rise onto your toes. Then two [hop backs](#) and a [foot-together-jump](#). *Stick dances:* stand in position, trying not to look stupid. Two beats before the end of the tune, do a [foot-together-jump](#).

Foot Up & Down

Face up. Two [double steps](#) in the "up" direction (one stationary, one in place). [Galley](#) (out from the center). [Foot-together-jump](#) to face down. Face down. Two [double steps](#) in the "down" direction (one stationary, one in place). [Galley](#) (out from the center). [Foot-together-jump](#) $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around to face across.

Half Gyp

Face across. Two [double steps](#), one to cross to your partner's position (starting on the left foot¹) and passing by the right shoulder) and one in place. [Hop backs](#) to return to place. [Foot-together-jump](#). Face across. Two [double steps](#), one to cross to your partner's position (starting on the right foot²) and passing by the left shoulder) and one in place. [Hop backs](#) to return to place. [Foot-together-jump](#).

Back-to-Back

Face across. Two **double steps**: on the first one cross to your partner's position (starting on the left foot and passing by the right shoulder), and on the second one slide to your right. **Hop backs** to return to place, this time passing your partner by the left shoulder. **Foot-together-jump**. Face across. Two **double steps**: on the first one cross to your partner's position (starting on the right foot and passing by the left shoulder), and on the second one slide to your left. **Hop backs** to return to place, this time passing your partner by the right shoulder. **Foot-together-jump**.

Rounds

On the catch-step ("and") before the downbeat, hop into a circle and face clockwise. Middles will need to move outwards ("bulge"). One **double step** around the circle (clockwise). On the second **double step** spiral into a clump, ending halfway around the circle but closer to the center. **Hop backs** to your corner's place (halfway around the circle). **Foot-together-jump**. On the catch-step ("and") before the downbeat, all dancers turn a little more than 180° over their left shoulders ("hard turn") and go back the way they came (counter-clockwise). Again, on the second **double step** spiral into a clump, ending halfway around the circle but closer to the center. **Hop backs** to your original place. **Foot-together-jump**.

Tune

- [dances:fieldtown:1_balance_the_straw.abc](#)
- [dances:fieldtown:1_balance_the_straw.mid](#)
- [dances:fieldtown:1_balance_the_straw.pdf](#)

Balance the Straw

Traditional (Field Town)

A.(AB)4.A

A

4 B

8

X:1

T:Balance the Straw

```

M:6/8
L:1/8
C:Traditional
O:Field Town
P:A.(AB)4.A
K:G Major
%%MIDI channel 1
%%MIDI control 7 100      % volume = 100
%%MIDI program 41        % General MIDI violin
%%MIDI transpose 0
%%MIDI gchordoff
%%partsfont Times-Bold 16.0
V:1      clef=treble
P:A
|: D | G2 B B>AB | c2 A A>Bc | d>Bd c>Ac | B2 G G2 :|
P:B
|: B/c/ | d2 d d2 G | c2 B B2 A | d2 d GAB | c2 B A2 D |
G2 B B>AB | c2 A A>Bc | d>Bd c>Ac | B2 G G2 :|

```

1)

this will be the *outside* foot as you pass

2)

this will again be the *outside* foot as you pass

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