

Nyx's Cross

Tune: *Swallowtail Jig* (traditional) **Source:** Nyx Bigler / Banbury Cross Morris & Sword **Chorus:** Corners each in turn come into the center & dance around each other clashing F-B-F-B, then loop around. (Clashes are 1st corners, 2nd, 3rd, 1st, 2nd, 3rd.) Then [half hey](#). (Chorus does not repeat; second & fourth figures & choruses are done from inverted positions.) **Sequence:** [once to yourself](#), [foot up & down](#), [half gyp](#), [back to back](#), [rounds](#)

Detailed Description

Chorus

Chorus: Beats #1-4: First corners approach and clash F-B-F-B (forehand-backhand-forehand-backhand) as they move around each other while 2nd & 3rd corners loop around. (Movement is marching, though [double steps](#) could be substituted.) Beats #5-8: second corners have finished a small loop and clash F-B-F-B as they pass while 1st & 3rd corners loop around. Beats #9-12: third corners (middles) have finished looping and clash F-B-F-B as they pass while 1st & 2nd corners loop around. Beats 13-24: repeat the entire sequence. Beats 25-32: [half hey](#).

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](#) 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

At first we used Morrison's Jig for this dance, but we found that Swallowtail is easier to double step to.

Note that a danceable pace is ***much*** slower than the jig is played in sessions or for rapper sword dancing.

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

Swallowtail

traditional (mid-19th century)

%%stretchlast yes

X: 1

T:Swallowtail

C:traditional (mid-19th century)

R:jig

M:6/8

L:1/8

K:Em

P:A

F | GEE BEE | GEE BAG | FDD ADD | d^cd AGF |

GEE BEE | GEE B2 ^c | d^cd AGF | GEE E2 ::

P:B

B | B^cd e2 f | e2 f edB | B^cd e2 f | edB d3 |

B^cd e2 f | e2 f edB | d^cd AGF | GEE E2 :|

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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