

# Balance The Straw

## Overview

**Type:** Cotswold **Style:** Fieldtown **Tune:** *Balance the Straw* **Dancers:** 6 **Equipment:** sticks (32")  
**Source:** *A Handbook of Morris Dances* by Lionel Bacon

## Sequence

1. once to yourself
2. foot up
3. *chorus*
4. half gyp
5. *chorus*
6. Back-to-back
7. *chorus*
8. rounds
9. *chorus* & all up

## Music & Stepping

The first line of text describes hand/stick motions. The second line describes stepping.

X:10 T:Balance the Straw C:traditional O:Fieldtown M:6/8 L:1/8 P:A(AB)4 K:D major P:A % figure % bars  
 1-4 music |:A|d2f fef|g2e efg|afa geg|f2d d2:| % bars 1-4 hands w:\* | stick~down\* \*\*\* | stick~down\* \*\*\* |  
 out\*\* in\*\* | front\* XTF | % bars 1-4 feet w:\* | double\* step\*\*| double\* step\*\* | hop-\* back hop- \*back | FTJ\*  
 \*| P:B % chorus % bars 5-8 music |:f/g/ |a2a a2d|g2f f2e|b2a a2d|f2e e2A| % bars 5-8 hands (sticking) w:  
 \*\* | dib~beh. dib~frt. | XTF\* XTB\* | dib~beh.\* dib~frt.\*\* | XTF XTF XTF \* | w: \*\* | stand in place | % half-  
 hey % bars 9-12 music d2f fef|g2e efg|afa geg|f2d d2:|

## Abbreviations

Abbreviations used on this page include:

Abbrev.	Meaning
D beh.	Dib (stick on ground) behind
D frt.	Dib (stick on ground) in front
XTF	Strike, Tip (of stick), Forehand
XTB	Strike, Tip (of stick), Backhand
FTJ	Foot-Together-Jump

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