

POP! GOES THE WEASEL

American

PRONUNCIATION: PAHP! gohs thuh WEE-zuhl

TRANSLATION: The weasel is the center person in a trio who "pops" forward to the next couple.

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance in 5th grade in his hometown.

BACKGROUND: The "Pop! Goes the Weasel" tune is used for a great variety of activities by all age groups. It may be used for squares, couple dances, trios, and play parties. This is the trio version, which is different from the contra and square versions that may also be danced to this music. In the mid-nineteenth century, the dance began appearing both on sheet music and in dance manuals and was hugely popular with children and adults alike.

At Marcus Whitman Elementary School in Richland, Washington, it seems that we youngsters were expected to have, as part of our physical "education," some kind of dance training. Of course, the person tagged for the job was the physical education instructor. The PE instructor was comfortable teaching the "manly" sports; after all, he was a man himself. Even to us at our age, it was obvious that this task was an onerous one to him. His method of attack, probably prescribed by the texts of the day, was to start us out with the simple locomotor actions of walking, running, and skipping. With record player and speakers blaring, we "locomoted" around the gymnasium to the sounds of 78-rpm recordings.

Twenty minutes into a 55-minute period, it was becoming a bit boring. Then the instructor put on a lively tune called "Pop! Goes the Weasel" and set us off a-skipping in a large circle. Already having glimmerings of the free-style dancer that I would become later in life, every time the melody hit the first word in "Pop! Goes the Weasel" I would "pop" up into the air. I was feeling quite satisfied with myself as I was going into another "pop," when all of a sudden, my arms were clamped to my sides by two very strong hands and I was lifted entirely from the floor and carried to one of the walls where I was set down and turned to face our large, burly phys-ed instructor, now quite red in the face. He grabbed me once more in the same grip, lifted me as high as he could reach, hung me up on one of the climbing pegs by my belt, then turned around and left me hanging there for the remainder of the period. I suppose he expected that he had humiliated me and that I'd never do anything like that again, but I really enjoyed watching the other poor wretches having to put up with his ineptitude until I was lifted off the peg and set down to go to my next class. I guess you could say that was when I first recognized that I had a folk dance "hang-up."

MUSIC: RCA (45rpm) 45-6180
RCA (45epa) EPA-4138 B
Folk Dancer (45rpm) MH 45-1501 B

FORMATION: Sets of three, preferably one boy and two girls, inside hands joined. All sets face counter-clockwise around the hall.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Walking. Smile at your partners!

MEAS	MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION
INTRODUCTION	
1-4	No action.
THE DANCE	
1-4	All walk forward, singing "Round and 'round the cobbler's shop the monkey chased the weasel."
5-6	Sets of dancers join hands in a circle of three and walk left around, singing "In and out and 'round about."
7-8	The center dancer of the trio is "popped" under an arch formed by the outside dancers and on to the next couple for the next repetition, singing "Pop! goes the weasel."
Repeat entire dance from beg.	

POP! GOES THE WEASEL
America

'Round and 'round the cobbler's bench
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in fun,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

A penny for a spool of thread
A penny for a needle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

A half a pound of tupenny rice,
A half a pound of treacle,
Mix it up and make it nice,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

Up and down the London road,
In and out of the Eagle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

I've no time to plead and pine,
I've no time to wheedle,
Kiss me quick and then I'm gone,
Pop! Goes the weasel.

1853, Arranged by Chas. Wiggs Esq., New York.

OTHER LYRICS

'Round and 'round the cobbler's shop
The monkey chased the weasel,
In and out and 'round about
Pop! goes the weasel.

Half a pound of tuppenny rice,
Half a pound of treacle.
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the Mulberry Bush,
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey stopped to pull up his sock,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Put some pepper on its nose,
And you'll make it sneeze-l,
Catch it fast before it snaps,
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the Mulberry Bush,
The monkey chased the weasel.
The monkey stopped to scratch his nose,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Up and down the city road,
In and out the Eagle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Up and down the King's Highway,
In and out the Eagle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

For you may try to sew and sew,
But you'll never make anything regal,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

The monkey and the weasel fought,
The weasel's really feeble,

The monkey punched him in the face,
Pop! goes the weasel.

Every time when I come home,
The monkey's on the table,
Cracking nuts and eating spice
Pop! goes the weasel.

Every time when I come home
The monkey's on the table,
Take a stick and knock it off
Pop! goes the weasel.

Johnny's got the whooping cough,
Mary's got the measles,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

A penny for a spool of thread,
A penny for a needle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

You may try to sew and sew,
And never make anything regal,
So roll it up and let it go,
Pop! goes the weasel.

A painter would his lover to paint,
He stood before the easel,
The monkey jumped all over the paint,
Pop! goes the weasel.

When his sweetheart she did laugh,
His temper got so lethal,
He tore the painting up in half,
Pop! goes the weasel.

My son and I went to the fair,
We saw a lot of people,
We spent a lot of money there,
Pop! goes the weasel.

I got sick from all the sun,
My sonny boy got the measles,
Still we had a lot of fun,
Pop! goes the weasel.

I climbed up and down the coast,
To find a golden eagle,
I climbed the rocks and thought I was close,
Pop! goes the weasel.

But, alas, I lost my way,
Saw nothing but a seagull,
I tore my pants and killed the day,
Pop! goes the weasel.

I went to the grocery store,
I thought a little cheese'll,
Be good to catch a mouse on the floor,
Pop! goes the weasel.

But the mouse was very bright,
He wasn't a mouse to wheedle,
He took the cheese and said "Good night,"
Pop! goes the weasel.

A penny for a cotton ball,
A penny for a needle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

If you want to buy a pig,
Buy a pig with hairs on,
Every hair a penny a pair,
Pop! goes the weasel.

I've no time to wait and sigh,
I've no time to tease-l,
Kiss me quick, I'm off, goodbye!,
Pop! goes the weasel.

CONTEMPORARY VERSES IN THE UNITED STATES CONSIST MAINLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

All around the or cobbler's bench,
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in fun,
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the mulberry bush,
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in fun,
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the cobbler's bench,
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in good sport,
Pop! goes the weasel.

All around the mulberry bush,
The monkey chased the weasel,
The monkey thought 'twas all in good sport,
Pop! goes the weasel.

A penny for a spool of thread,
A penny for a needle,
That's the way the money goes,
Pop! goes the weasel.

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