The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 17

By John W. Mitchell

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New formations are described in the appendix of this book:

- Square Shuffle Left (Kipper's Jig)
- Square Shuffle Right (Kipper's Jig)
- Swap Left (Geordie's Reel, Grant's Strathspey, Hay's Reel)

Original Introduction

Some readers believe that it would be better if I were to remain overseas devising dances, than to return and publish them. Please remember that time spent in preparing the books is time which might otherwise be spent devising.
A few more of the warped convolutions of a frustrated devisor's mind are herein released; for consumption, or rejection, by a far from avid public. No doubt many will receive the mediocrity achieved by the majority of their antecedents. A few may achieve the same notoriety as some of the earlier endeavours have. It is a matter of consolation and surprise to observe the irregularity with which some appear on various programmes. The dances which achieve such infamy vary considerably from place to place; there must be a pattern in this, but it has not yet become clear. This volume includes some figures which have appeared in the two previous collections, and some which have not. Those which the majority of dancers may be fortunate enough to be unfamiliar with are explained in the text. Such figures include:

- Counter Splunge (Hazeldean)
- Dropout Chain (Gin Worth Living)
- Granny knot (The Growling Old Woman)
- Ruptured Triangle (I Ha'e Laid A Herrin In Salt)
- Shuffle Left (Harmonica, The Jim Douglas)
- Splat (Hill House Jack Oozie)
- Square Shuffle Left (Kipper's Jig)
- Square Shuffle Right (Kipper's Jig)
- Swap Left (Geordie's Reel, Grant's Strathspey, Hay's Reel)
- Swap Right (Grant's Strathspey, Hay's Reel)

Regular readers may have remarked that several of these figures have names beginning with the letter "S", others may not have noticed this. The obvious question to be asked is "Why?". To which I can only reply by quoting Lewis Carroll who (when asked about the prevalence of the initial "B" in The Hunting Of The Snark) replied: "Why not?"

John W. Mitchell (1986)

Introduction to the new edition

By now, we seem to have reached the 40th anniversary of the original publication, in issuing this new edition. This is due to a series of events contributing to a delay of the new editions, which can be best summarised as other things taking priority or simply life getting in the way. In this book, the dance "Iona Cross" has achieved some level of popularity, likely due to it featuring a popular characteristic of Scottish Country Dances, typically described as "it flows". Perhaps the idea of a smooth flow is the reason for the prevalence of the letter "S" in the naming of the figures. A couple of the dances in this book did however contain genuine errors, that we have endeavoured to fix with minor modifications. These changes are indicated with an editor's note, which will hopefully improve the "flow" of the dance, by everyone finding their partner again, and not sending couples off into the wrong direction. What happens on the dance floor is, however, not our responsibility.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2026)

John Wallace Mitchell - A Brief Biography

(31/05/1931 – 25/11/2012)



John Wallace Mitchell was born and raised in Brighton & Hove, Sussex. Following his school education, which took place against a background of war, he completed military service from 1949-1951 with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) army division. He then started work in accountancy, joining the Sperry Rand corporation in 1957 as a computer and business systems analyst. In 1958 he became a member of the British Computer Society, only a few months after its foundation. In the early 1960's, the focus of his career moved towards management consultancy, and he completed many assignments for several companies, often helping to set up their first computer systems, with work taking him to many locations both within the UK and western Europe, as well as to Saudi Arabia. Eventually he set up a private practice in 1972.

He was a keen cyclist, active in several clubs and competing at a local level from 1946 – 1956. When in the army, he would often cycle back to Brighton on free weekends, which could be up to 140 miles each way.

Although he first encountered Scottish Country Dancing in Dollar, Scotland in 1947, it wasn't until 1964 that he began to take it seriously, when he joined the Leeds clubs and RSCDS Branch. After moving back to the Brighton area, he became a member of the London branch in 1966 and in 1967 was the founder chairman of the Sussex Association of Scottish Societies, which was formed to ensure the future of the local Annual Scottish Charity Ball by connecting many clubs in the region. This led to the first day schools and teachers' training courses in the region. In 1972 he obtained a full RSCDS teacher's certificate and in 1975 became the founder chairman of the Hangleton Scottish Country Dance Club. From approximately 1968 to 1992 he devised some 828 dances, which were published in this series of Whetherly Books and Sheets. Whetherly is the maiden name of his paternal grandmother, after which the house in which he grew up was also named ("Whetherly House"). In 2010 he received the London Branch award for services to Scottish Dancing.

John passed away in 2012 after a two year battle with cancer.

Garthland's Strathspey

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

1-2 All join hands on the side and set.
3-6 First and second couple dance four hands round to the left in a circle, third and fourth couples do the same; finish with first and third couples facing down; second and fourth couples facing up; all retain nearer hand with partner.
7-8 All set.
9-16 Reels of four on the sides.
17-24 First and second couples dance an all round diamond poussette, third and fourth couples do the same.
25-26 First and fourth couples turn half way with the right hand, whilst second man and third lady change places giving left hand to finish facing out.
27-28 First couple dance right hands across in a wheel half way with third lady, whilst fourth couple do the same with second man.
29-30 First couple dance left hands across in a wheel half way with third lady, whilst fourth couple do the same with second man; at the same time second lady and third man change places giving right hand to finish facing out ready to join in the left hand wheels in front of their partners.
31-32 First and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, second and fourth couples do the same. Finish in the order 3, 1, 4, 2.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Garthlands

Geordie The Roadman

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First man followed by second man crosses above first lady, casts off behind first and second ladies and dances in, to face second lady, second man dancing between first and second ladies to face first lady.
5-6 First and second men join hands, as do first and second ladies, and all set, the ladies set advancing slightly.
7-8 First man and second lady turn with both hands, whilst second man and first lady do the same.
9-16 First man with second lady and second man with first lady dance a poussette.
17-20 First lady followed by second lady crosses below second man, casts up behind second and first men and dances in, to face first man, second lady dancing between second and first men to face second man.
21-22 First and second ladies join hands, as do first and second men, and all set, the men set advancing slightly.
23-24 First and second couples turn with the right hand to finish facing the top in an Allemande hold.
25-32 First and second couples allemande.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Geordie The Roadman

Editor's note to the 2026 edition
We added a slight advancing movement to the setting on bars 5&6 and 21&22 which were not to be found in the original description.

Geordie's Reel

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First and second couples Swap Left*:
  1-2 first lady and second man change places giving left hand; at the same time first man and second lady set;
  3-4 first lady and second man cross to own side; at the same time first man and second lady turn with the right hand to meet their partner on the first diagonal.
5-6 Second and first couples join left hands with partner on the first diagonal and balance in line.
7-8 Second and first couples turn with the left hand to finish with first couple on the ladies' side and second couple on the men's side (men in first position).
9-16 First and second couples dance rights and lefts.
17-24 First and second couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
25-26 First man crosses above second man and second lady crosses below first lady.
27-28 First man casts off into second place and second lady casts up into first place.
29-32 Second and first couples turn with the right hand.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Jumping Geordie

* The Swap Left is described in the appendix of this book.

Gillan's Reel

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

1-2 First man and third lady change places giving right hand, first lady and third man do the same.
3-4 Second man and third man change places giving left hand, first man and fourth man do the same.
5-6 First man and second lady change places giving right hand, third man and fourth lady do the same.
7-8 First couple change places giving left hand, third couple do the same. All men are now in first and third places, all ladies in second and fourth places.
9-10 All men set advancing, without giving hands.
11-12 First and second men turn with the left hand, third and fourth men do the same.
13-16 The men dance left hands across in a wheel, to finish with second and fourth men facing their partners, third man facing first lady and first man facing third lady.
17-24 Reels of four across the set: second couple with first lady and third man; fourth couple with third lady and first man.
25-28 Right hands across in wheels: first man and third lady with second couple; first lady and third man with fourth couple; finish in square formation.
29-30 First and second men change places giving right hand, third and fourth men do the same.
31-32 First man and fourth lady change places giving left hand, third man and second lady do the same.
Finish in the order 4, 1, 2, 3.

Repeat with new top couple:
1-8 as above;
9-16 the ladies set advancing, turn left hand and wheel to face the men;
17-24 reels of four up and down the set;
25-32 as above.

Repeat twice more:
Men leading on the next repeat, ladies leading on the final repeat.

Recommended tune: Gillan's Reel

Gin Worth Living

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cross giving right hand.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
5-8 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, first couple commence by crossing up and finish in second place on own sides.
9-12 Second and first couples dance right hands across in a wheel, third and fourth couples do the same.
13-16 First and fourth couples turn with the right hand to finish facing out and up.
17-24 Reels of four on the side of the set, ladies commence by passing by the left shoulder.
25-26 First and fourth couples cast up one place, second and third couples step down.
27-28 First and fourth couples cross to opposite sides giving left hand and face down. Second and third couples face up.
29-32 Dropout chain, one step to each hand:
- 29 all change places on the sides giving right hands, second couple drop out of the chain in first place;
- 30 first and third couples change places on the sides giving left hands, whilst fourth couple cross to own side giving left hand, third couple drop out of the chain in second place;
- 31 first and fourth couples change places on the sides giving right hands, fourth couple drop out of the chain in third place;
- 32 first couple cross giving left hand to fourth place on own side.

Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Gin Worth Living

Girl in Green

A forty bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cross giving right hand.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
5-8 First man dances half a figure of eight round second couple crossing up to commence, whilst first lady dances half a figure of eight round third couple crossing down to commence; first couple finish in second place on own sides.
9-12 First couple dance half diagonal rights and lefts with first corners.
13-16 Half reels of three on the sides, commencing by passing second corners by the right shoulder.
17-20 First couple dance half diagonal rights and lefts with their first corner persons (now in second corner positions).
21-24 Half reels of three on the sides of the set, commencing by passing fourth corner persons (now in third corner positions) by the right shoulder; first couple finish back to back facing own sides.
25-32 Second, first and third couples dance double triangles; first couple finish in second place on own sides.
33-40 Second, first and third couples dance six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Girl In Green

Glasgow Gaelic Club

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First lady, followed by first man, casts off behind second lady and crosses to opposite side of the set; on bars 3 & 4 second couple step up.
5-8 First lady, followed by first man, casts off behind third and fourth men and dances in to finish between fourth couple; first man dances between third and fourth men to finish between third couple.
9-12 First couple dance right hands across in a wheel with third and fourth ladies.
13-16 First couple dance left hands across in a wheel with third and fourth men, first man finishes dancing towards second place on own side.
17-20 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel; first couple finish in second place on own sides.
21-22 First man casts off behind third man; whilst first lady dances down in front of third lady; third couple step up.
23-24 First man dances down in front of fourth man to finish in fourth place facing out. Meanwhile first lady casts off behind fourth lady to finish in fourth place; fourth couple step up.
25-32 Reels of four on the sides of the set.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Glasgow Gaelic Club

Grant's Strathspey

A forty bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First and second couples Swap Right, third and fourth couples do the same:
- 1-2 first man and second lady cross giving right hand, third man and fourth lady do the same; at the same time first lady, second man, third lady and fourth man set;
- 3-4 first man, second lady, third man and fourth lady cross to own sides; at the same time first lady and second man turn three quarters with the left hand to finish on the sidelines, third lady and fourth man do the same.

5-8 First and third couples face up, second and fourth couples face down and all set with Highland Schottische step.

9-16 Reels of four on the sides of the set.

17-24 Grand chain, one bar to each hand, all commencing by giving right hands on the sides of the set.

25-28 Second and first couples dance right hands across in a wheel, fourth and third couples do the same.

29-32 First and fourth couples Swap Left*:
- 29-30 first lady and fourth man cross giving left hand; at the same time first man and fourth lady set;
- 31-32 first lady and fourth man cross to own sides; at the same time first man and fourth lady turn three quarters with the right hand.

33-40 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Miss Grant Of Grant

* The Swap Left is described in the appendix of this book.

Green Shades of Gask

A thirty-two bar Jig for two couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple set.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
5-8 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, commence by crossing up and finish in second place on opposite side.
9-16 Second and first couples dance a ladies' chain.
17-18 First couple cross giving right hand.
19-20 First couple cast up to their original places, second couple step down.
21-24 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
25-28 Second and first couples turn one and a half times with the right hand to own sides.
29-32 Second and first couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Green Shades of Gask

The Growling Old Woman

A thirty-two bar Jig for two couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First man followed by second man crosses above first lady, casts off behind first and second ladies and dances in, second man dancing between first and second ladies. The men finish in the centre of the set facing up.
5-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
9-16 First man with second lady and second man with first lady dance a knot.
17-20 Second lady followed by first lady crosses above first man, casts off behind first and second men and dances in to finish facing second man, first lady dancing between first and second men to face first man.
21-24 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
25-32 First and second couples dance a granny knot (a left handed knot) for two couples:
- 25-26 turn half way with the left hand to finish facing the top, ladies on their partner's left, the men lifting the ladies left arms over their heads into an allemande hold;
- 27-28 they allemand down the ladies' side of the set;
- 29-32 releasing the left hand they turn with the right hand to own sides of the set.

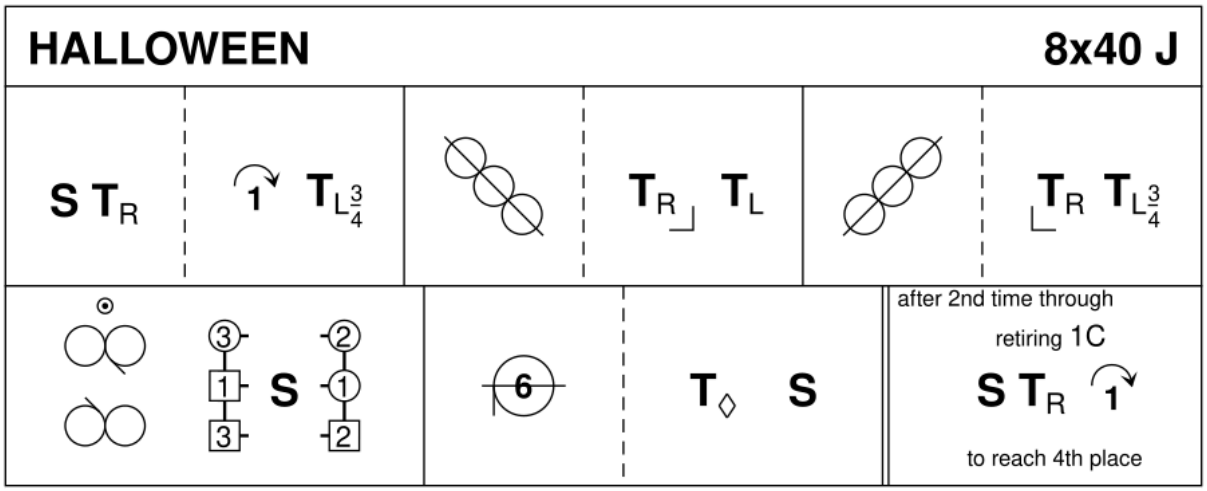
Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Growling Old Woman

Halloween

A forty bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple set.
3-4 First couple turn with the right hand.
5-6 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
7-8 First couple turn with the left hand to face second corners.
9-12 Half a reel of four with second corners.
13-16 Turn corner, partner:
13-14 turn second corners (in fourth corner positions) with the right hand;
15-16 turn partner with the left hand one and a quarter;
finish facing first corners.
17-20 Half a reel of four with first corners.
21-24 Turn corner, partner:
21-22 turn first corners (in third corner positions) with the right hand;
23-24 turn partner three quarters with the left hand;
finish in second place on opposite sides facing out.
25-30 Reels of three on the sides, to commence first and third men pass by the left shoulder as do first and second ladies; finish with first lady between third couple at the top all facing down, and first man between second couple at the foot all facing up.
31-32 All join hands and set.
33-36 All dance six hands round to the left half way.
37-38 First couple dance a petronella turn to second place on own side.
39-40 First couple set.

Repeat from second place. At the end of the repeat, dancing couple repeat bars 1-6 to get to the foot, as the next top couple commences.
Recommended tune: Halloween



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 17 3C/4C longwise set.

The Harmonica

A thirty-two bar Jig for two couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cross giving right hand.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
5-8 Second and first couples dance half rights and lefts.
9-16 First and second couples dance a ladies' chain, the men finishing with a polite turn.
17-20 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
21-24 Second couple turn with the right hand one and a half times to own side of the set.
25-28 First and second couples Shuffle Left:
- 25-26 first man and second lady change places giving left hand; at the same time first lady and second man set;
- 27-28 first man casts up and second lady casts down; at the same time first lady and second man turn three quarters with the right hand;

all finish in their partners' original places.
29-32 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Harmonica

Hay's Reel

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First and second couples Swap Right:
- 1-2 first lady and second man set; at the same time first man and second lady change places giving right hand;
- 3-4 first lady and second man turn with the left hand half way; at the same time first man and second lady dance across to own sides, to meet their partner on the second diagonal.

5-6 First lady and second man join right hands with partner and all balance in line.

7-8 Second and first couples turn with the right hand to finish: first couple on the men's side; second couple on the ladies' side (ladies in first place).

9-10 First and second couples join nearer hands with partner and set.

11-14 First and second ladies turn one and a half times with the right hand, first and second men do the same.

15-16 First and second couples join nearer hands with partner and set.

17-20 First and second couples Swap Left*:
- 17-18 first man and second lady set; at the same time first lady and second man change places giving left hand;
- 19-20 first man and second lady turn with right hand half way; at the same time first lady and second man dance across to own sides, to meet on the first diagonal.

21-22 Second and first men join left hands, second and first ladies do the same and all balance in line.

23-24 Second and first ladies turn with the left hand to finish on the ladies side, second and first men do the same to finish on the men's side (first couple in second place).

25-32 Second and first couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Miss Hay of Yester

* The Swap Left is described in the appendix of this book.

Hazeldean

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple set.
3-6 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, commencing by crossing down.
7-8 First couple turn with the right hand.
9-10 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
11-16 Second and first couples dance half rights and lefts into a Counter Splunge:
- 11-12 first and second couples cross giving right hand;
- 13-14 first and second couples change places on the side giving left hand, the ladies turn under the raised left hands to face out:
  first man and second lady on the men's side;
  first lady and second man on the ladies' side;
- 15-16 first and second couples continue turning to their left to dance left hands across in a wheel half way.

17-20 Second, first and third couples dance half reels of three on the sides, to commence: first man and third lady pass by the right shoulder; first lady and third man pass by the right shoulder.
21-24 Second man, followed by second lady, casts up to the top and crosses to opposite side to finish facing down; on bars 23 & 24 third and first couples step down, third couple face up.
25-30 Second, third and first couples dance a grand chain, one step to each hand: at the end of bar 30 second couple retain partner's left hand.
31-32 First couple cross to own side giving right hand, whilst second couple turn to own side with the left hand. Finish in the order 2, 3, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Jock O' Hazeldean

Editor's note to the 2026 edition
The original version of bars 21-24 started with second lady followed by second man. This order has been swapped in this edition to improve the flow of the dance. The original text is as follows:

21-24 Second lady, followed by second man, casts up to the top and crosses to opposite side to finish facing down; on bars 23 & 24 third and first couples step down, third couple face up.

The Hen's March Over the Midden

A thirty-two bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set.
On the second chord third and fourth couples cross to opposite sides.

1-4	First and fourth couples turn one and a half times with the right hand to finish on opposite sides of the set, first man and fourth man facing out.
5-8	First man, followed by first lady, casts off behind second lady and crosses to own side, whilst fourth man followed by fourth lady casts up behind third lady and crosses to opposite side; on bars 7 & 8 second couple step up and third couple step down.
9-12	Second and first couples dance right hands across in a wheel, fourth and third couples do the same.
13-16	Half reels of four on the sides of the set.
17-22	Grand chain (two steps to each hand for three hands), commencing by giving right hands on the sides.
23-24	All turn with the left hand: fourth lady turns first man; fourth man turns first lady; second and third couples turn own partner.
25-32	Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: The Hen's March Over The Midden

Here's a Health to Ane I Lo'e Dear

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple set advancing.
3-4 First couple turn half way with two hands, opening out to finish facing down the middle.
5-6 First couple dance down between second and third couples (with nearer hands joined), second couple step up.
7-8 First couple cast up behind third couple into second place on opposite side.
9-16 Second and first couples dance rights and lefts, first couple finish back to back facing first corners (first man does not complete the polite turn, second man assists first lady into place).
17-24 Set to and turn corners:
- 17-18 first couple set to first corners;
- 19-20 first couple turn their first corners with two hands;
- 21-22 first couple set to second corners;
- 23-24 first couple turn their second corners with two hands, to finish between their corners.

25-30 First couple dance reels of three with their corners, commence passing first corners by the left shoulder.
31-32 First couple cross giving right hand.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Here's A Health To Ane I Lo'e Dear

Here's to the Health

A one hundred and twenty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a square set.

Figure 1

1-4 All set to partner, and turn partner with the right hand, ladies facing out.
5-8 Schiehallion reel, the men start dancing to the right.
9-10 All turn three quarters with the right hand, the ladies finish in the centre facing anticlockwise and men on the outside facing clockwise.
11-12 Ladies dance left hands across in a wheel half way, whilst the men cast a quarter round the set.
13-14 All turn the person they meet half way with the right hand, ladies finish on the outside facing clockwise and men in the centre facing anticlockwise.
15-16 Men dance left hands across in a wheel half way, whilst ladies cast a quarter round the set to meet partner on the sides.
17-32 Repeat the first 16 bars.

Figure 2

1-4 First and third couples join nearer hands and advance and retire.
5-8 First man dances back to back with third lady, whilst third man dances back to back with first lady.
9-12 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
13-16 First and third couples dance half a ladies' chain, first couple finish facing fourth couple and third couple finish facing second couple.
17-24 Reels of four: second lady with third man, first lady and fourth man; second man with third lady, first man and fourth lady.
25-28 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel, second and third couples do the same.
29-30 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, second and third couples do the same.
31-32 Third lady, followed by third man, second lady and second man dances up and across the top into first lady's place. Meanwhile first lady followed by first man, fourth lady and fourth man dances down and across the foot into third lady's place.
Note: first and third couples have now changed places, second and fourth couples are in their original places.
33-34 First and third ladies, still followed by the other dancers, dance into the middle and pass right shoulder into a longwise formation. Second couple are now at the top facing third couple and fourth couple at the foot facing first couple.
35-36 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, first and fourth couples do the same.
37-40 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel, second and third couples do the same: third couple are now at the top facing second couple and first couple at the foot facing fourth couple.
41-48 Reels of four: second lady with third man, first lady and fourth man; second man with third lady, first man and fourth lady.
49-56 Second couple dance a figure of eight round third couple, crossing between third couple to commence; fourth couple dance a similar figure of eight round first couple. Finish on the sides, second lady with fourth man in second place and fourth lady with second man in fourth place.
57-60 Second and fourth couples dance half a men's chain.
61-64 Second and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts. Second couple are now in fourth place and fourth couple in second place.

Figure 3

1-8 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
9-12 The men dance in front of their partners, cast behind the next lady and collect the opposite lady in a promenade hold.

13-16 All promenade half way round the set to bring the ladies back to their original places.
17-20 The men dance left hands across in a wheel.
21-24 The ladies dance in front of the man on their left, cast behind the next man and collect their partner in a promenade hold.
25-28 All promenade half way round the set to bring the men back to their original places.
29-32 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel once round and finish back to back in the centre of the set for the final bow and curtsey.

Recommended tune: Here's To The Health

Note
For a demonstration figure 2 may be repeated with second and fourth couples leading; in the Ballroom second and fourth couples should lead figure 2 on the encore.

Editor's note to the 2026 edition
The original version of Figure 1 did not bring all couples back to original places as required. We have modified bars 1-8 in order to correct this. The original text is as follows:

1-8 Grand chain half way (two steps to each hand).

Hill House

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, commence by crossing down and finish in first place on opposite sides.
5-8 First and second couples Splat:
- 5-6 first and second couples turn half way with the right hand, the ladies turn under their raised right arms as if about to take an allemande hold; first couple (facing up) finish back to back with second couple (facing down);
- 7-8 first and second couples continue turning to the right, join right hands and dance right hands across in a wheel half way; second couple finish in first place and first couple in second place on opposite sides.

9-16 Reels of four on the sides of the set.
17-20 First lady followed by her partner casts down behind third man and crosses to her own side to face out, on bars 19 & 20 third couple step up.
21-24 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel.
25-28 Third and first couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
29-32 First and fourth ladies turn one and a half times with the right hand to change places, first and fourth men do the same.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Miss Graham Of Inchbrakie

Hoddam Castle

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-8 First and second couples dance a knot.
9-10 Second, first and third couples join hands on the sides and set.
11-12 Second, first and third couples cross giving right hands.
13-16 Second, first and third couples dance six hands three quarters round to the left in a circle.
17-20 First lady turns third man with the right hand, whilst first man turns second lady with the right hand.
21-24 First lady turns second man with the left hand, whilst first man turns third lady with the left hand.
25-28 All couples dance six hands three quarters round to the right in a circle.
29-30 Second, first and third couples cross giving left hands.
31-32 Second, first and third couples join hands on the sides and set.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Hoddam Castle

House Of Gray

A twenty-four bar Jig for five couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cast off behind second couple, whilst fifth couple cast up behind fourth couple.
3-4 First and fifth couples cross giving right hand.
5-6 First couple cast up to the top, whilst fifth couple cast off to the foot.
7-8 First couple dance down to finish back to back facing second couple, whilst fifth couple dance up to finish back to back facing fourth couple.
9-12 First man turns second lady with the left hand; fourth man turns fifth lady with the left hand; second man turns first lady with the right hand; fifth man turns fourth lady with the right hand.
At the end of the turns: first couple cross down; second couple dance up into first place; fourth couple dance down into fifth place; fifth couple face out towards opposite sides in fourth place.
13-16 First and third men dance right hands across in a wheel with fifth lady on the men's side of the set; first and third ladies dance left hands across in a wheel with fifth man on the ladies' side of the set.
At the end of the wheels third couple dance up into second place, fifth couple into third place on opposite sides, first couple into fourth place on own sides. First and fifth couples finish facing out.
17-18 First and fifth couples take a promenade hold and cast off, fourth couple step up.
19-22 First and fifth couples dance half rights and lefts (first man omits the polite turn).
23-24 First couple cross to own side and finish facing out ready to start from fifth place.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 5, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: House Of Gray

Hunter's Reel

A forty-eight bar Reel for four couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First man, second lady, third man and fourth lady advance setting and join hands in a line up and down the set.
3-4 First man, second lady, third man and fourth lady balance in line.
5-8 First man and second lady turn one and a half times with the right hands to finish in each other's original places, third man and fourth lady do the same.
9-10 First lady, second man, third lady and fourth man advance setting and join hands in a line up and down the set.
11-12 First lady, second man, third lady and fourth man balance in line.
13-16 First lady and second man turn one and a half times with the left hands to finish in each other's places, third lady and fourth man do the same.
17-24 Second and first couples dance rights and lefts; fourth and third couples do the same: finish with first man, second lady, third man, and fourth lady facing out.
25-26 Second man and first lady turn three quarters with the left hand, fourth man and third lady do the same; at the same time, first and third men cast up one place on the ladies' side and second and fourth ladies cast off one place on the men's side.
27-28 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way, third and fourth couples do the same.
29-32 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel.
33-40 Reels of four on the sides of the set.
41-48 First, fourth and third couples dance a knot.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: The Fox Chase

The Hunt's Favourite

A forty-eight bar Jig for four couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple face down, second couple face up and set.
3-4 First and second men turn three quarters with the left hand, whilst first and second ladies turn three quarters with the right hand.
5-8 First, second and third ladies dance right hands across in a wheel, whilst first, second and third men dance left hands across in a wheel; on the last bar first couple dance down, second couple finish in first place.
9-12 First, third and fourth ladies dance left hands across in a wheel, whilst first, third and fourth men dance right hands across in a wheel.
13-14 First and fourth men turn with the right hand, whilst first and fourth ladies turn with the left hand; first couple pass left shoulder to finish back to back between third couple, first man facing third lady and first lady facing third man.
15-16 First and third couples set.
17-24 First and third couples dance a reel of four, passing by the left shoulder to commence; they finish with:
third lady in second place on own side; third man in third place on own side; first man in third place on opposite side; first lady in second place on opposite side.
25-32 Reels of four on the sides of the set.
33-40 Reels of four across: second couple dance a reel of four across the set with first and third ladies, to start second man and third lady pass by the left shoulder, second lady casts off and first lady casts up; fourth couple dance a reel of four across the set with first and third men, to start third man and fourth lady pass by the left shoulder, first man casts off and fourth man casts up.
41-44 First lady casts up behind second man and dances down the middle, whilst first man casts off behind fourth lady and dances up the middle; third man steps up on bars 41 & 42.
45-46 First couple turn with the left hand into third place.
47-48 First couple cast off into fourth place.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: The Fife and Forfar Hunt's Favourite

Huntsman's Chorus

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple face down, second couple face up, and they set.
3-4 First and second ladies turn with the left hand; whilst first and second men turn with the right hand.
5-8 First, second and third ladies dance left hands across in a wheel; whilst first, second and third men dance right hands across in a wheel.
9-12 First couple followed by second and third couples dance down the middle with nearer hand joined (on bars 9 & 10 third couple cast up to follow).
13-16 Half reels of three on the side, to commence first couple dance in and up and second couple out and down.
17-20 Third couple followed by second and first couples dance up the middle with nearer hand joined.
21-24 Third couple cast off into third place as second couple dance up into first place followed by first couple.
25-28 Second, first and third ladies dance right hands across in a wheel; whilst second, first and third men dance left hands across in a wheel.
29-30 Second and first ladies turn each other with the right hand; whilst second and first men turn each other with the left hand, first couple finish in second place.
31-32 Second and first couples join hands on the sides and set.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Huntsman's Chorus

I Ha’e Laid A Herring In Salt

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-8 First couple dance reels of three on opposite sides, first couple commence by crossing below second couple.
9-16 First couple dance reels of three on own sides, first couple commence by crossing below second couple.
17-18 Second couple cast up to the top as first couple dance down (with nearer hands joined) to finish back to back facing own sides.
19-30 "Ruptured Triangles":
- 19-20 All join hands in triangle formation and set.
- 21-24 First man casts up behind second man and dances down the middle as first lady casts down behind third lady and dances up the middle, they pass by the left shoulder to finish back to back first man facing down and first lady facing up. Meanwhile second and third couples dance half rights and lefts to finish with third couple in first place facing down and second couple in third place facing up.
- 25-26 All join hands in triangle formation and set.
- 27-30 First lady dances up to the top and casts off into second lady’s place as first man dances down and casts up into second man's place. Meanwhile second and third couples dance half rights and lefts giving right hands on the sides to commence.

31-32 All join hands on the side and set.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: I Ha’e Laid A Herring In Salt

I'll Come Tae Ye

A thirty six bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cast off, second couple step up.
3-6 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, commencing by crossing up.
7-10 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand, to finish facing out.
11-16 Reels of three across the set: first man with second couple, commencing with first and second men passing by the right shoulder; first lady with third couple, commencing with first and third ladies passing by the right shoulder; first man finishes between second couple and first lady between third couple.
17-18 First couple turn with the left hand to second place, finish facing opposite sides.
19-20 Second, first and third couples join hands on the sides and balance in line.
21-28 Turn corner, partner, corner, partner:
- 21-22 first couple turn first corners with the right hand;
- 23-24 first couple turn partner with the left hand;
- 25-26 first couple turn second corners with the right hand;
- 27-28 first couple cross to own side giving left hand.

29-36 Reels of three on the sides, to commence first and second ladies pass by the left shoulder; whilst first and third men pass by the left shoulder.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Oh Whistle And I'll Come Tae Ye My Lad (played 10, 8, 10, 8)

Iona Cross

A ninety-six bar Strathspey, ninety-six bar Reel Medley for six couples in a square set. Fifth couple in the middle facing first couple, back to back with sixth couple facing third couple.

Strathspey

1-8 Reels of four up and down the set: first man with fifth lady, sixth man and third lady; first lady with fifth man, sixth lady and third man.

9-12 Back to back: first man with fifth lady; first lady with fifth man; third man with sixth lady; third lady with sixth man; at the same time second and fourth couples join hands on the sides and advance and retire.

13-16 Half rights and lefts: first couple with fifth couple; third couple with sixth couple; first and third couples finish back to back with partner: first lady and third man facing second couple; first man and third lady facing fourth couple.

17-24 Reels of four across the set: first couple with second lady and fourth man; third couple with second man and fourth lady.

25-28 Right hand wheels at the corners: first and second ladies with fifth man; first and fourth men with fifth lady; third and second men with sixth lady; third and fourth ladies with sixth man.

29-32 Circle and wheel: first and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel; second, fourth, fifth and sixth couples dance eight hands three quarters round to the left in a circle.

33-64 Repeat bars 1-32.

65-96 Repeat bars 1-32.

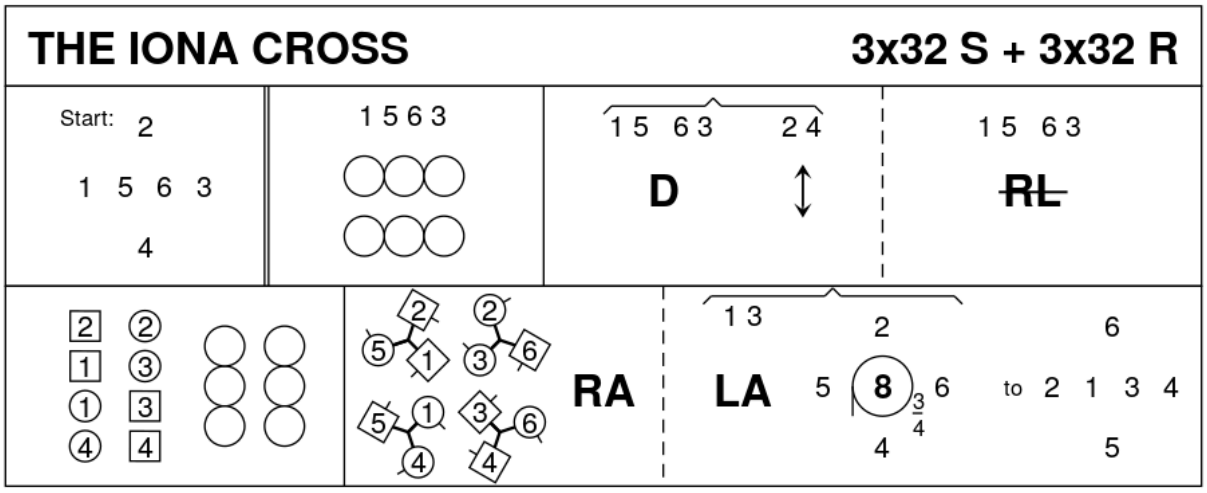
Reel

1-96 Repeat the whole dance in Reel time, to return to original places.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Maggie; Reel: Gillan's Reel

Editor's note to the 2026 edition

The original version contained four diagrams for bars 1, 29, 33 and 65 which are not included here.



Irish Girls

A thirty-two bar Jig for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cross giving right hand.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place second couple step up.
5-6 Second, first and third couples join hands on the sides and set.
7-8 Second, first and third couples cross giving right hand.
9-16 Second, first and third couples dance six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
17-18 Second, first and third couples cross giving left hand.
19-20 Second, first and third couples join hands on the sides and set.
21-24 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, first couple commence by crossing up and finish facing first corners.
25-32 Turn corner, partner, corner partner:
- 25-26 first couple turn first corners with the right hand;
- 27-28 first couple turn partner with the left hand;
- 29-30 first couple turn second corners with the right hand;
- 31-32 first couple cross to own side giving left hand.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Irish Girls

Jack Oozie

A sixty-four bar Strathspey, sixty-four bar Reel Medley for four couples in a square set.

Strathspey

1-4 First and third couples dance half rights and lefts, to finish back to back with partners between second and fourth couples in lines across the set.

5-8 Second couple Splat with first lady and third man, whilst fourth couple Splat with first man and third lady:

- 5-6 all turn half way with the right hand; ladies turn under the raised right arms, as if about to take an allemande hold: second and fourth couples face out; first lady and third man finish back to back with second couple facing in; first man and third lady finish back to back with fourth couple facing in;
- 7-8 all continue turning to their right, and join right hands to dance right hands across in wheels half way: second couple with first lady and third man; fourth couple with first man and third lady.

9-16 Reels of four across the set: first couple with second man and fourth lady; third couple with second lady and fourth man;

17-20 Second and fourth couples Splat:

- 17-18 second and fourth couples turn half way with the right hand, second couple finish back to back with fourth couple, the ladies turn under the raised right arms, as if about to take an allemande hold;
- 19-20 second and fourth couples continue turning to their right, and join right hands to dance right hands across in a wheel half way.

21-22 Left hands across in wheels half way: second couple with first man and third lady; fourth couple with first lady and third man.

23-24 First and third couples turn half way with the right hand to original places (they retain the right hand hold); whilst second and fourth couples set to partners.

25-26 All turn partner half way with the right hand to finish facing out, the ladies turn under the raised right arms.

27-30 All turn to their right and dance half way round the set, in a clockwise chase.

31-32 Ladies turn to their right to face their partners and turn half way with the right hand to finish: the order is now 3, 2, 1, 4.

33-36 Second and fourth couples dance half rights and lefts, to finish back to back with partners between first and third couples in lines across the set.

37-40 First couple Splat with second lady and fourth man, whilst third couple Splat with second man and fourth lady:

- 37-38 all turn half way with the right hand; ladies turn under the raised right arms, as if about to take an allemande hold: first and third couples face out; second lady and fourth man finish back to back with first couple facing in; second man and fourth lady finish back to back with third couple facing in;
- 39-40 all continue turning to their right, and join right hands to dance right hands across in wheels half way: first couple with second lady and fourth man; third couple with second man and fourth lady.

41-48 Reels of four up and down the set: second couple with first man and third lady; fourth couple with first lady and third man.

49-52 First and third couples Splat:

- 49-50 first and third couples turn half way with the right hand, first couple finish back to back with third couple, the ladies turn under the raised right arms, as if about to take an allemande hold;
- 51-52 first and third couples continue turning to their right, and join right hands to dance right hands across in a wheel half way.

53-54 Left hands across in wheels half way: first couple with second man and fourth lady; third couple with second lady and fourth man.

55-56 Second and fourth couples turn half way with the right hand (they retain the right hand hold); whilst first and third couples set to partners.

57-58 All turn partner half way with the right hand to finish facing out, the ladies turn under the raised right arms.
59-62 All turn to their right and dance half way round the set, in a clockwise chase.
63-64 Ladies turn to their right to face their partners and turn half way with the right hand to finish in opposite places.

Reel

1-64 Repeat the whole dance as described for the Strathspey above to return to original places: but on bars 63 & 64 turn three quarters with the right hand to bring the men back to back in the centre for the final bow and curtsey.

Recommended tunes: Strathspey: Cupar Barn Dance; Reel: Dancing Feet

James Stephen

A thirty-two bar Jig for five couples in a longwise set.

1-8 First man casts off behind second man, dances down in front of third man, casts off behind fourth man, dances down in front of fifth man to finish facing out on own side; at the same time first lady dances down in front of second lady, casts off behind third lady, dances down in front of fourth lady, casts off behind fifth man to finish facing in on own side.

9-16 First man, followed by first lady, casts up behind fifth man, crosses to opposite side, casts up behind fourth and third ladies to finish dancing down in front of third lady. On bars 15-16, first lady dances between third and fourth ladies to finish facing down.
At the same time second lady, followed by second man, casts down behind third lady and crosses to opposite side; casts down behind fourth and fifth men to finish dancing up in front of fifth man. On bars 15-16, second man dances between fourth and fifth men to finish facing up.

17-20 Right hands across in wheels: first couple with third and fourth men; second couple with fourth and fifth ladies.

21-24 Left hands across in wheels: first couple with third and fourth ladies; second couple with fourth and fifth men; fourth couple finish in third place. First lady and second man lead their partners out of the left hands across and pass the other couple right shoulder dancing up and down the set.

25-26 Right hands across in wheels half way: third couple with second couple; first couple with fifth couple.

27-30 Second, third, fifth and first couples turn one and a half times with the right hand to own side of the set.

31-32 All five couples join hands on the side and set.
Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 5, 1.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: James Stephen

Jim Douglas

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple cast off behind second couple.
3-4 First couple dance down between third couple with nearer hand.
5-8 First couple cast up to place.
9-16 First couple lead down the middle and back.
17-24 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hands.
25-28 First and second couples Shuffle Left:
- 25-26 first man and second lady change places giving left hand; at the same time first lady and second man set;
- 27-28 first man casts up into first lady's position. Meanwhile second lady casts off into second man's position; at the same time first lady and second man turn with the right hand, to finish back to back facing own partner.

29-32 First and second couples dance half a reel of four, commence passing by the left shoulder; on bar 32 as first lady and second man dance in instead of passing by the right shoulder they curve to their left so that: first lady dances down into second place on the ladies' side; second man dances up into first place on the men's side; first couple finish facing out.

Repeat from second place. At the end of that repeat, dancing couple finish facing out and cast to the foot as the new top couple commences.
Recommended tune: Jim Douglas

John Macfadyen Of Melfort

A thirty-two bar Strathspey for four couples in a longwise set.

1-2 All join hands on the sides and set.
3-4 Four hands round to the left in a circle half way: first couple with second couple; third couple with fourth couple; on bar four first and fourth couples release their partner's hands and open out into a circle of eight.
5-8 Eight hands round to the left half way, finishing in two lines across the set; at the top third couple between fourth couple facing down; at the foot second couple between first couple facing up.
9-12 The ladies dance half rights and lefts (first and fourth ladies give right hands to start, second and third ladies do the same), at the same time the men dance half rights and lefts (first and fourth men give right hands to start, second and third men do the same).
13-16 Half a grand chain (to start first and fourth couples give right hands to their partners, whilst second and third ladies give right hands to each other as do first and third men). Finish with fourth couple between third couple at the top facing down and first couple between second couple at the foot facing up.
17-18 All join hands and set.
19-20 The men circle round to the right half way, the ladies do the same; first and fourth couples open out to join hands with their partners in a circle of eight.
21-24 Eight hands round to the right half way, opening out into the side lines (in the order 3, 4, 1, 2).
25-26 All join hands on the sides and set.
27-28 All cross giving right hand to partner.
29-30 All join hands on the sides and set.
31-32 Third and second couples cross giving left hand, whilst fourth and first couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way. Finish in the order 3, 1, 4, 2.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: John Macfadyen Of Melfort

Jumping Geordie

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

1-2 First couple turn with the right hand.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up.
5-8 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, first couple commence by crossing up.
9-16 Second, first and third couples dance a grand chain. To commence, second couple cross giving right hand, first and third couple change places right hand on the sidelines.
17-20 Second, first and third couples dance six hands round to the left in a circle half way; they finish still in the circle, each man facing the lady on his right.
21-24 All set.
21-24 All turn the person they are facing with two hands.
25-28 Third, first and second couples dance six hands round to the left in a circle half way.
29-30 First couple cross to own side giving right hand.
31-32 First couple set.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Jumping Geordie

Kipper's Jig

A sixty-four bar Jig for four couples in a square set.

1-4 All dance a Square Shuffle Right*:
  1-2 the ladies dance right hands across in a wheel a quarter round, while the men set;
  3-4 the men dance left hands across in a wheel half way, while the ladies cast clockwise a quarter round the set, passing opposite man right shoulder; all finish by joining right hand with their partner in a grand cross.
5-6 Holding hands in the grand cross all balance in line.
7-8 All turn three quarters with the right hand to the sides; the ladies face out.
9-20 All dance three quarters of a "Schiehallion Reel". The order is now 2, 3, 4, 1.
21-22 All turn three quarters with the right hand to bring the ladies into the centre; the ladies join left hands in a grand cross.
23-24 Holding hands in the grand cross all balance in line.
25-32 Double reels of four: first and third couples across the set; second and fourth couples up and down the set; all give left hands across in a wheel half way as they pass in the centre.
33-36 Men cast clockwise half way round the set, whilst the ladies dance left hands across in a wheel.
37-40 All turn the opposite lady one and a quarter times with the right hand to finish on the sides of the set.
41-44 All dance a Square Shuffle Left*:
  41-42 the men dance left hands across in a wheel a quarter round, while the ladies set;
  43-44 the men cast anticlockwise a quarter round the set, while the ladies dance right hands across in a wheel half way to join left hand with the opposite man in a grand cross.
45-46 Holding hands in the grand cross all balance in line.
47-48 All turn half way with the left hand to bring the men into the centre.
49-52 The ladies cast anticlockwise half way round the set, while the men dance right hands across in a wheel.
53-56 All turn partner one and a quarter times with the left hand to finish on the sides of the set. The order is now 2, 3, 4, 1.
57-64 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: I Hae Laid A Herrin In Salt

* The Square Shuffle Right and the Square Shuffle Left are described in the appendix of this book.

Lady Mary Hay

A thirty-two bar Reel for two couples in a longwise set.

1-4 First couple dance half a figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to commence.
5-8 First couple turn one and a half times with the right hand.
9-12 First lady followed by first man casts off behind second lady and crosses to opposite side.
13-16 First lady followed by first man casts up to the top and crosses to own side.
17-18 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
19-20 Second and first couples cross giving right hand.
21-24 Second and first men turn with the left hand, whilst second and first ladies do the same.
25-32 Second and first couples dance four hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Lady Mary Hay's Scotch Measure

Appendix to the new edition: Description of Formations

For ease of reference, all formation descriptions which originally appeared spread throughout the book have been collected here.

Square Shuffle Right

Four couple formation in a square set. Generic description with everyone starting in original places.

1-2 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel a quarter round, whilst the men set.
3-4 The men dance left hands across in a wheel half way, whilst the ladies cast clockwise a quarter round the set; all finish by joining right hand with their partner in a grand cross.

Square Shuffle Left

Four couple formation in a square set. Generic description with everyone starting in original places.

1-2 The men dance left hands across in a wheel a quarter round, whilst the ladies set.
3-4 The ladies dance right hands across in a wheel half way, whilst the men cast anticlockwise a quarter round the set; all finish by joining lefthand with their partner in a grand cross.

Swap Left

Two couple formation.

1-4 First lady and second man change places giving left hand and cross to own side; at the same time, first man and second lady set and turn with the right hand three quarters to face partner.

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