The Whetherly Book of Scottish Country Dances

Number 10

By John W. Mitchell

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New formations are described in the appendix of this book:

- Tournée for three couples (Caerlaverock Castle, Lady Binning, Lager Beer)

Original Introduction

Ideas for dances can come to one in the most unexpected places. St. Valentine's Day was thought up in the bath. The time for this dance was later suggested by Mrs Phylis Draper of London Branch. The tournée for three couples was thought of as a figure and the title suggested itself because of its superficial resemblance to the tournée in places, this I fear will put many dancers off the figure. In several dances I have used a figure involving dancers in changing places at the corners and dancing three quarter turns or wheels. Since devising them I have seen this pattern referred to as a Saltire Chain. I understand that John Drewry devised a dance called the Saltire but as I have not seen it or its instructions I do not know if there is a connection and so have not used that title for the figure in this book.

John W. Mitchell (1981)

Introduction to the new edition

Mrs Phylis Draper was a pianist who played for dance classes and examinations in London. Anecdotally, there was apparently one occasion during an examination when she realised that a potential teacher had forgotten to teach a few bars during an exam. To compensate, she adjusted the number of bars whilst playing and stopped early so the mistake was as subtle as possible. As far as I'm aware, the candidate passed. Would be interested to know if there is any truth to this story!

Please do not be put off by the name of a figure. This holds not only for the "Tournée for three couples" mentioned here, but also for the "Highland Schottische petronella" from earlier books, and the "Counter Splat" to be encountered later. As for the Saltire Chain, this has meanwhile become a known figure, the Saltire, that does seem to match the movement appearing within the dances as Cheviot Gate and The School Master in this book. Sometimes, it is easier not to introduce names unnecessarily, other times having a name for a figure can reduce the apprehension prior to dancing it.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2022)

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.

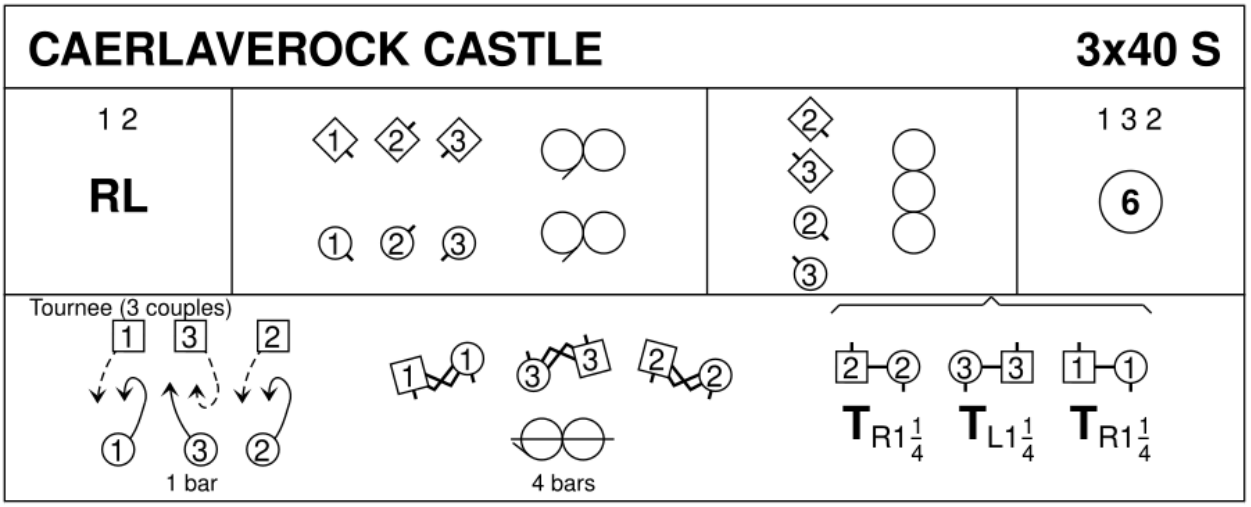
Caerlaverock Castle

A forty bar Strathspey for three couples in a three couple longwise set.

1- 8 First and second couples dance rights and lefts. First man and second lady finish facing out.
9-16 First, second and third couples dance reels of three on own side of the set, to commence second and third couples pass by the right shoulder; at the end of the reel second and third couples continue passing right shoulder to finish in a line across the dance with second man and third lady back to back in the centre.
17-24 Reel of four across the set, to commence second and third ladies pass by the right shoulder, second and third men also pass by the right; finish with second couple in third place and third couple in second place.
25-32 First, third and second couples dance six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.
33-40 First, third and second couples dance a tournée for three couples*.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Caerlaverock Castle

* The tournée for three couples is described in the appendix of this book.



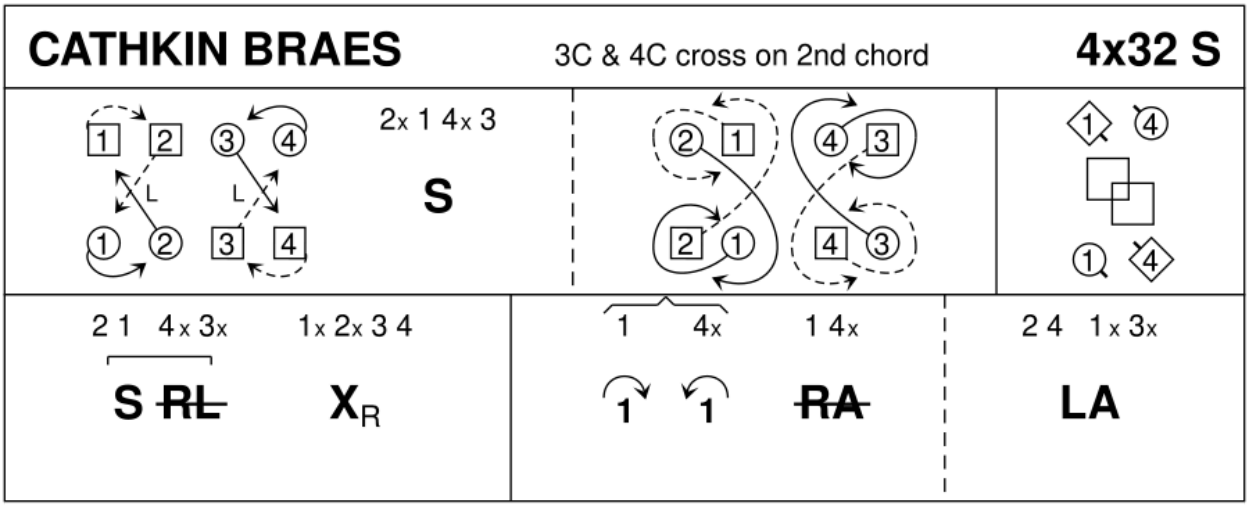
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/3C longwise set.

Cathkin Braes

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

1-2 First couple cast into second place on own side. Second couple cross giving left hand into first place on opposite side. Third couple cross giving left hand into fourth place on opposite side. Fourth couple cast up into third place.
3-4 All join hands on the side and set.
5-8 First couple cast up to the top and lead down to second place on own side. Second couple cross to original place and cast up into first place on own side. Third couple cross to original place and cast off into fourth place on own side. Fourth couple cast to the foot and lead up to third place on own side.
9-16 First and fourth couples dance a ladies' chain, as the ladies cross the men dance along the sides to meet them.
17-18 All join hands on the sides and set.
19-22 Second and first couples dance half rights and lefts, third and fourth couples do the same; omit the polite turn on bar 22.
23-24 All cross over giving right hand to partner, first and fourth couples remain facing out.
25-26 First couple cast into second place, second couple step up, and fourth couple cast into third place, third couple step down.
27-28 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
29-32 Second and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel, first and fourth couples do the same. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Cathkin Braes

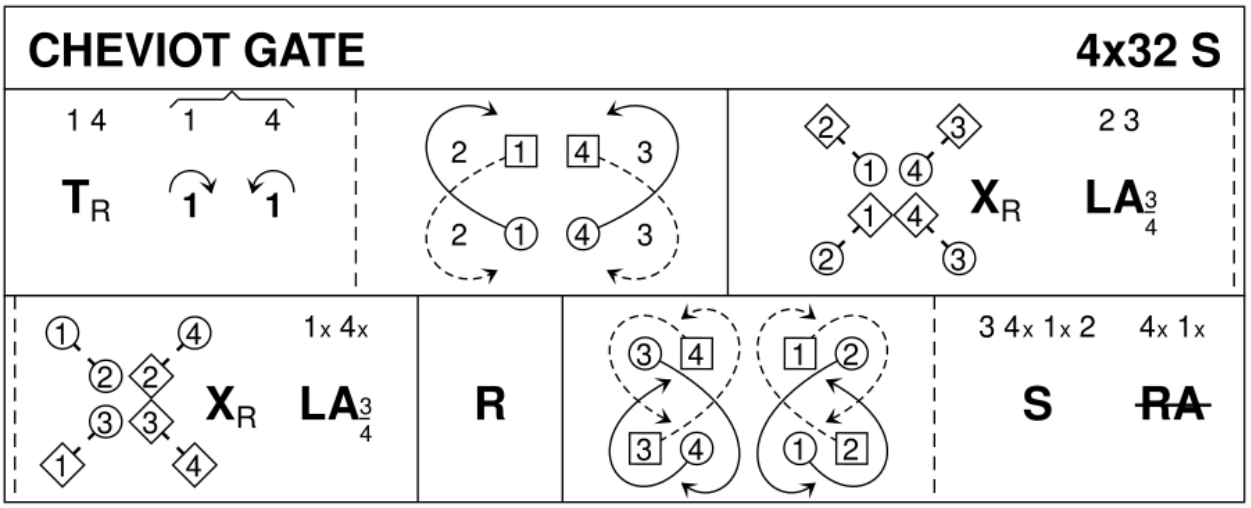


Cheviot Gate

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

1-2 First and fourth couples turn with the right hand to face out.
3-4 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up, whilst fourth couple cast up into third place and third couple step down.
5-8 First couple dance a half figure eight round second couple who are above them, whilst fourth couple dance a half figure of eight round third couple who are below them. First and fourth couples finish back to back facing their corners, i.e. the person whom they have each just cast around.
9-10 First and fourth couples change places with their corners giving right hands in passing, i.e. first man with second lady, first lady with second man, third man with fourth lady and third lady with fourth man.
11-12 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel three quarters round to face corners.
13-14 Second and third couples change places with their corners giving right hands in passing, i.e. first man with second man, first lady with third man, third lady with fourth lady and second lady with fourth man.
15-16 First and fourth couples dance left hands across in a wheel three quarters round to finish facing their corners. They will be facing the same person as at the end of bar eight, the whole set having revolved places one quarter clockwise.
17-24 Repeat bars 9-16 to finish with third couple in first place on opposite side, fourth couple in second place on own side facing out, first couple in third place on own side facing out and second couple in fourth place on opposite side.
25-28 First and second couples dance a half a double figure eight, first couple cast down whilst second couple cross to commence, at the same time, third and fourth couples dance half a double figure of eight, third couple crossing whilst fourth couple cast up to commence.
29-30 All join hands on the sides and set.
31-32 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way. Finish in the order 3, 1, 4, 2.

Repeat with a new top couple.
Recommended tune: Cheviot Gate



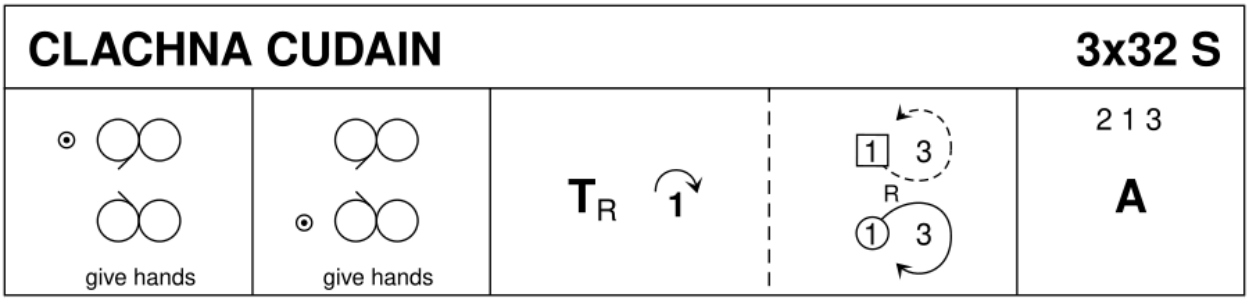
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

Clachna Cudain

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

1-8 First couple dance reels of three on opposite side of the set with second and third couples, all giving hands to partner where possible. To commence, first couple cross down through second place, second and third couple face up.
9-16 First couple dance reels of three (giving hands) on own side of the set with second and third couples, all giving hands to partner where possible. To commence, first couple cross down through second place, second and third couples continue their reels.
17-20 First couple turn with the right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 19 & 20.
21-24 First couple lead down below third couple and cast up into second place.
25-32 Second, first and third couples dance a three couple allemande.

Repeat with a new top couple.
Recommended tune: Clachna Cudain



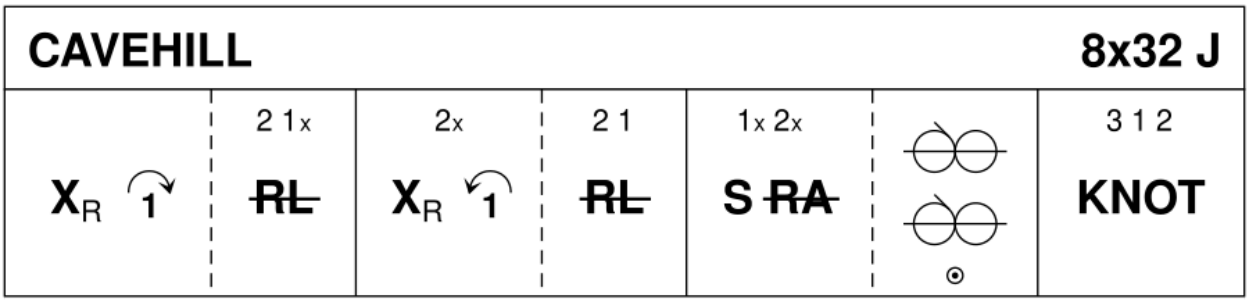
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/3C longwise set.

Cavehill

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

1-4 First couple cross giving right hand and cast off into second place, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
5-8 Second and first couples dance half rights and lefts.
9-12 Second couple cross giving right hand and cast up into first place on own side, first couple step down on bars 11 & 12.
13-16 First and second couples dance half rights and lefts.
17-20 First and second couples set and dance right hands across in a wheel half way, first man faces out.
21-24 Second, first and third couples dance a half reel of three on own side, to commence first and third couples pass by the left shoulder.
25-32 Third, first and second couples dance the knot.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Cavehill



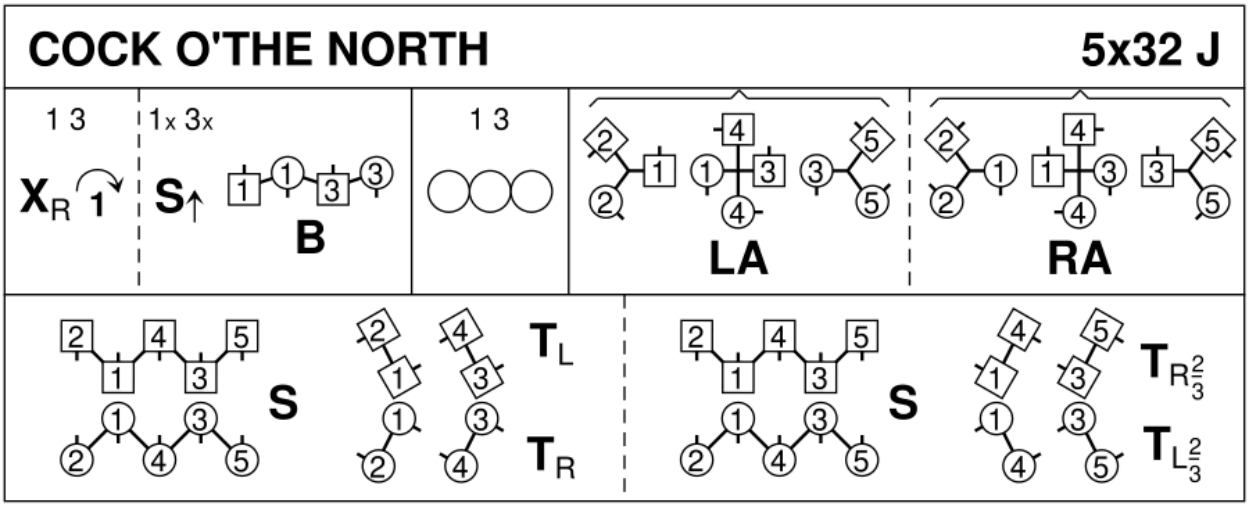
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

Cock O' The North

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

1-4 First and third couples cross over giving right hand in passing and cast off, second and fourth couples step up on bars 3 & 4.
5-6 First and third couples set advancing to join right hand with partner, first man and third lady join left hand.
7-8 First and third couples balance in line.
9-16 First and third couples dance a complete reel of four passing own partner by the right to commence.
17-20 First lady dances left hands across with second couple, first man and third lady dance left hands across with fourth couple, at the same time third man dances left hands across with fifth couple.
21-24 First man dances right hands across with second couple, first lady and third man dance right hands across with fourth couple and third lady dances right hands across with fifth couple. First and third couples finish back to back with own partner facing own side of the set, side couples facing in and all join hands in triangle formation.
25-26 All set in triangle formation.
27-28 Releasing left hand first and third men turn the man above them with the right hand. Meanwhile first and third ladies release right hands and turn the lady above them with the left hand.
29-30 Rejoining hands all set in triangle formation.
31-32 Releasing right hands first and third men turn the man below them two thirds round with the left hand to finish in the sidelines, at the same time first and third ladies release left hands and turn the man below them two thirds round with the right hand to finish in the sidelines. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 5, 3.

Repeat with original first couple in third place and a new top couple.
Recommended tune: Cock O' The North

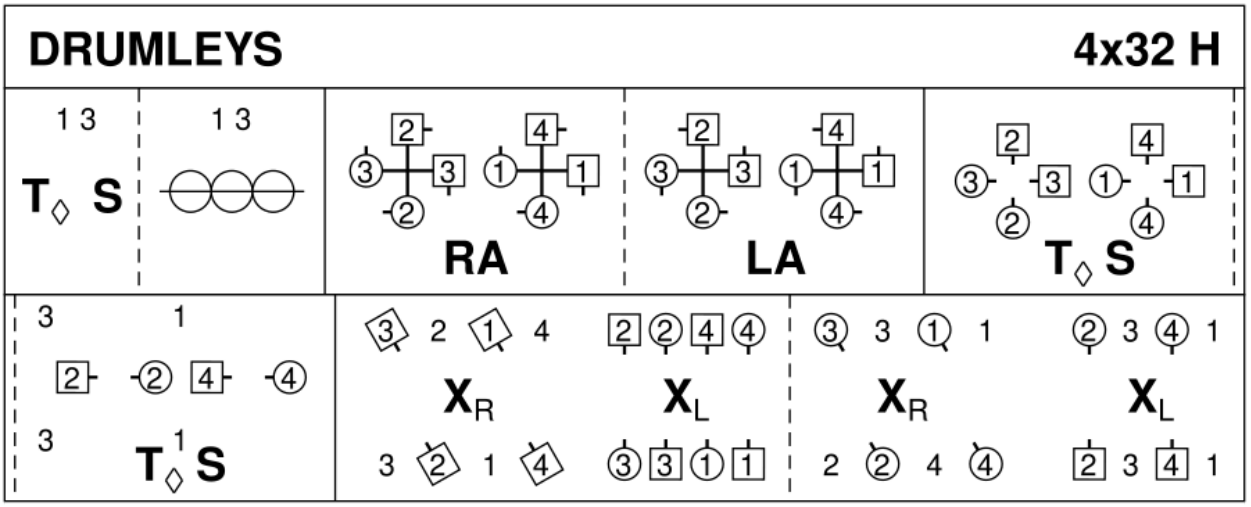


Drumleys

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

1-4 First and third couples dance a petronella turn into the centre to face own partner and set.
5-8 First and third couples dance a half reel of four, second and fourth couples step up slightly on bars 5 & 6.
9-16 Second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand, fourth and first couples do the same.
17-20 All dance four bars of petronella, to bring first and third couples back to own side in third and first places and second and fourth couples into the middle.
21-24 Second and fourth couples complete the petronella to finish on opposite side in second and fourth place. Third and first couples step up on bars 21 & 22 into first and third place.
25-26 Second and third ladies change places giving right hand in passing, first and fourth ladies do the same.
27-28 All cross with opposite person giving left hand in passing across the set.
29-30 Second and third men change places giving right hand in passing, first and fourth men do the same.
31-32 Second and fourth couples cross back to own side giving left hand in passing.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Drumleys



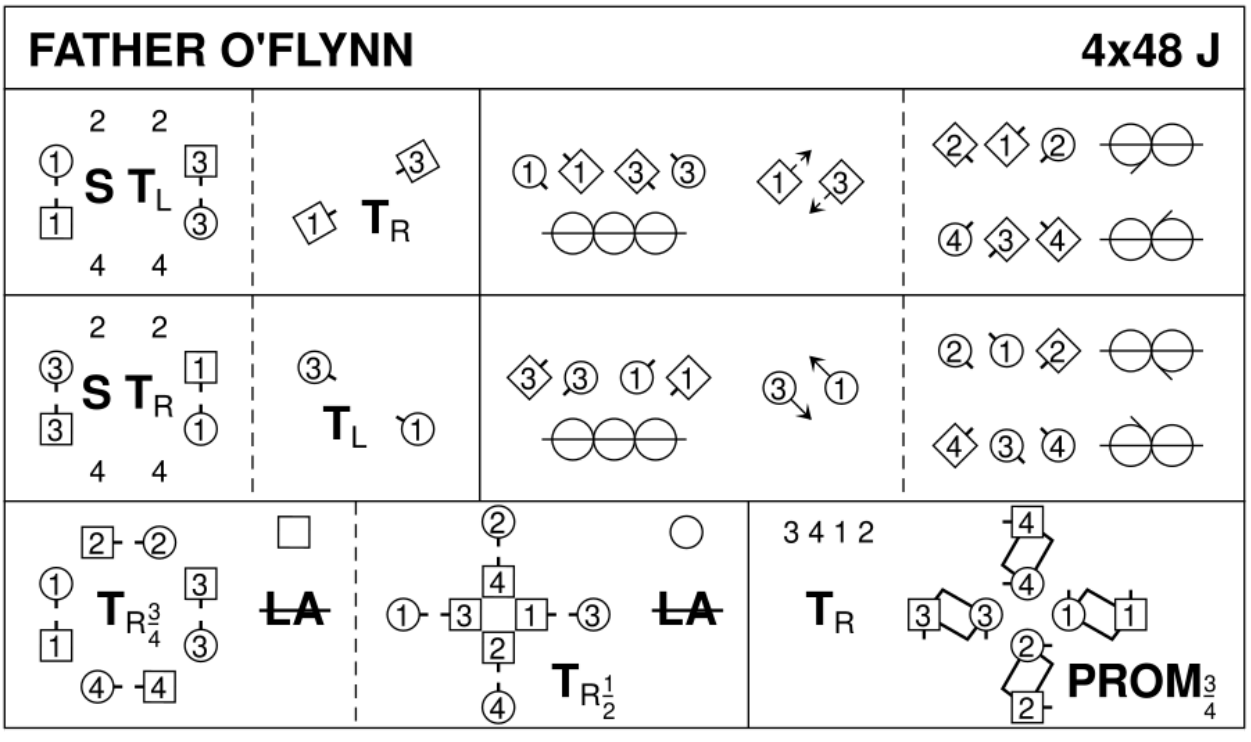
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

Father O' Flynn

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

1-4 First and third couples set to partner and turn with the left hand.
5-8 First and third ladies turn with the right hand to finish back to back facing own partner.
9-12 First and third couples dance a half reel of four passing own partner by the left shoulder to commence; first lady finishes facing second man and third lady finishes facing fourth man.
13-16 First lady dances a half reel of three with second couple passing second man by the right shoulder to commence between second couple and finishing in third lady's position, whilst third lady dances a similar half reel with fourth couple passing right shoulder to commence between fourth couple and finishing in first position.
17-20 First and third couples set to partner and turn with the right hand. First couple is in third place and third couple in first place.
21-24 First and third men turn with the left hand to finish back to back facing own partner.
25-28 First and third couples dance a half reel of four, passing own partner by the right shoulder to commence, first man finishes facing second man and third man facing fourth man.
29-32 Passing by the left shoulder to commence between second couple, first man dances a half reel of three with second couple to finish in original position whilst third man dances a similar half reel with fourth couple to finish in original position.
33-34 All turn own partner three quarters round with the right hand.
35-36 The four ladies dance left hands across in a wheel half way round.
37-38 The ladies turn the opposite men half way with the right hand.
39-40 The four men dance left hands across in a wheel half way to face own partners.
41-42 All turn own partner with the right hand to finish in a promenade hold, men on the inside with their partners on their right all facing anticlockwise.
43-48 All promenade three quarters round the set, to finish with second couple in first position.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Father O' Flynn



Glen Caladh Castle

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

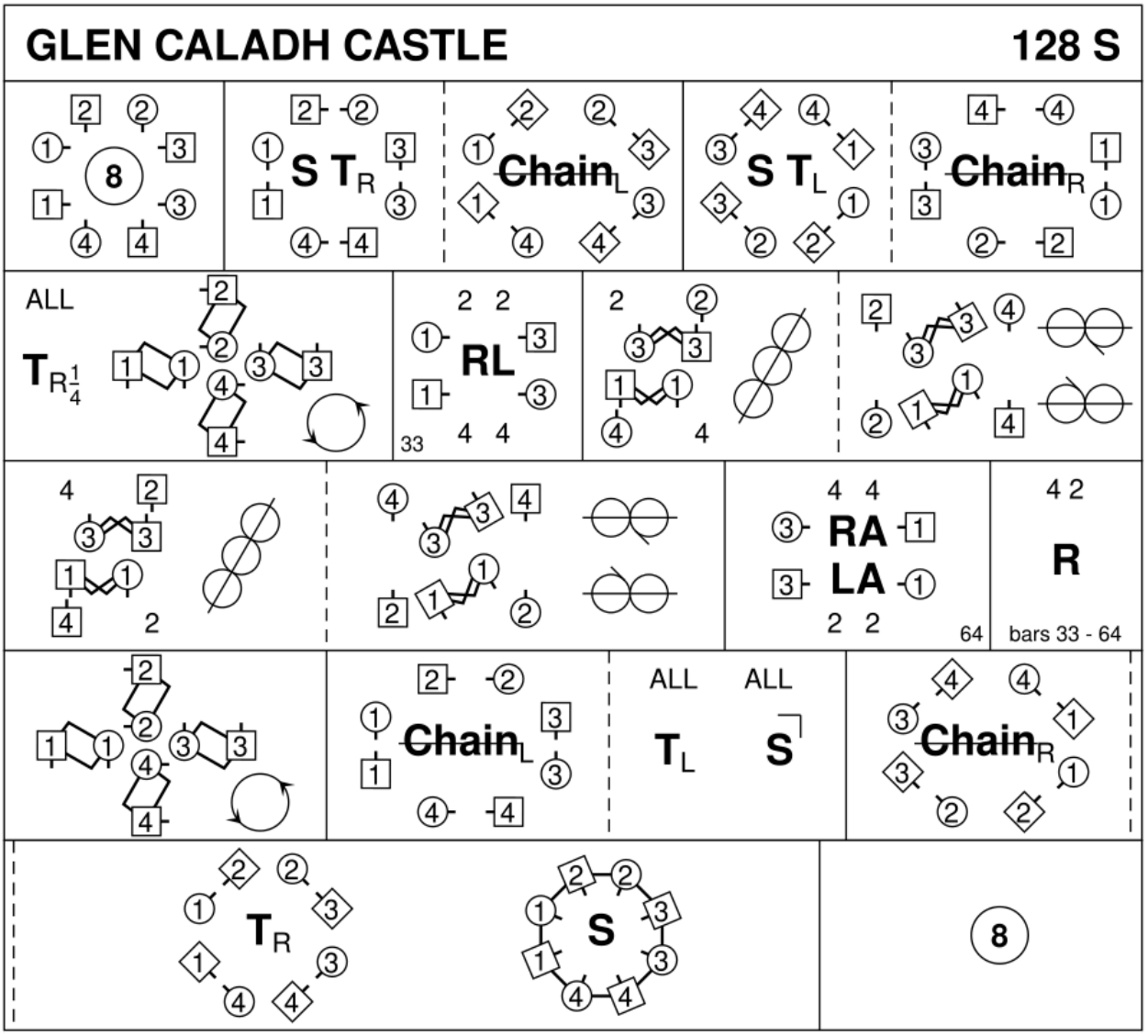
1-8 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
9-12 All set and turn partner with the right hand.
13-16 All dance a half a grand chain giving left hand to corners to commence.
17-20 All set to corners and turn with the left hand.
21-24 All dance a half grand chain giving right hand to own partner to commence.
25-32 All turn partner into an allemande hold and promenade round the set in an anticlockwise direction.
33-40 First and third couples dance rights and lefts, on bars 39 & 40 turn into a promenade hold with third couple facing second man and first couple facing fourth man.
41-44 First and third couples dance a half reel of four with second and fourth men. Finish with third couple facing second lady and first couple facing fourth lady.
45-48 Third couple dance a half reel of three with second lady and fourth man passing second lady by the left to commence and finishing facing second lady, whilst first couple dance a half reel of three with fourth lady and second man passing fourth lady by the left to commence and finishing facing fourth lady.
(Alternative figure description: second and fourth men dance completely round to their right to flow out of the half reels of four into the half reels of three; first couple have effectively danced a figure of eight round fourth position whilst third couple have danced a figure of eight round second position.)
49-52 First and third couples dance a half reel of four with second and fourth ladies passing by the right to commence, and finish facing second and fourth men.
53-56 First couple dance a half reel of three with second couple passing second man by the left to finish in third place, whilst third couple dance a half reel of three with fourth couple passing fourth man by the left and finishing in first place.
(Alternative figure description: second and fourth ladies dance the complete loop to flow out of the half reel of four into the half reels of three whilst first and third couples repeat the same figure of eight track as in bars 41-48 above.)
57-64 First and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel and back with the left hand.
65-96 Repeat bars 33-64 with second and fourth couples leading:
- 65-72 second and fourth couples dance rights and lefts to finish in promenade hold, second couple facing first man and fourth couple facing third man;
- 73-76 half reel of four with first and third men;
- 77-80 half reels of three, second couple with first lady and third man and fourth couple with third lady and first man;
- 81-84 half reel of four with first and third ladies;
- 85-88 second couple dance a half reel of three with third couple and fourth couple dance a half reel of three with first couple. All finish in original places;
- 89-96 second and fourth couples dance right hands across and back with the left hand.

97-104 All take an allemande hold and promenade round the set in an anticlockwise direction.
105-108 All dance a half grand chain giving left hand to partner to commence.
109-110 All turn partner with left hand.
111-112 All set to corners.
113-116 All dance a half grand chain giving right hand to corner to commence.
117-118 All turn corner with right hand and join hands in a circle.
119-120 All set.
121-128 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Recommended tune: Glen Caladh Castle

Note
It preserves the pattern if dancers also retain hands in a circle when setting on bars 9-10.

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10

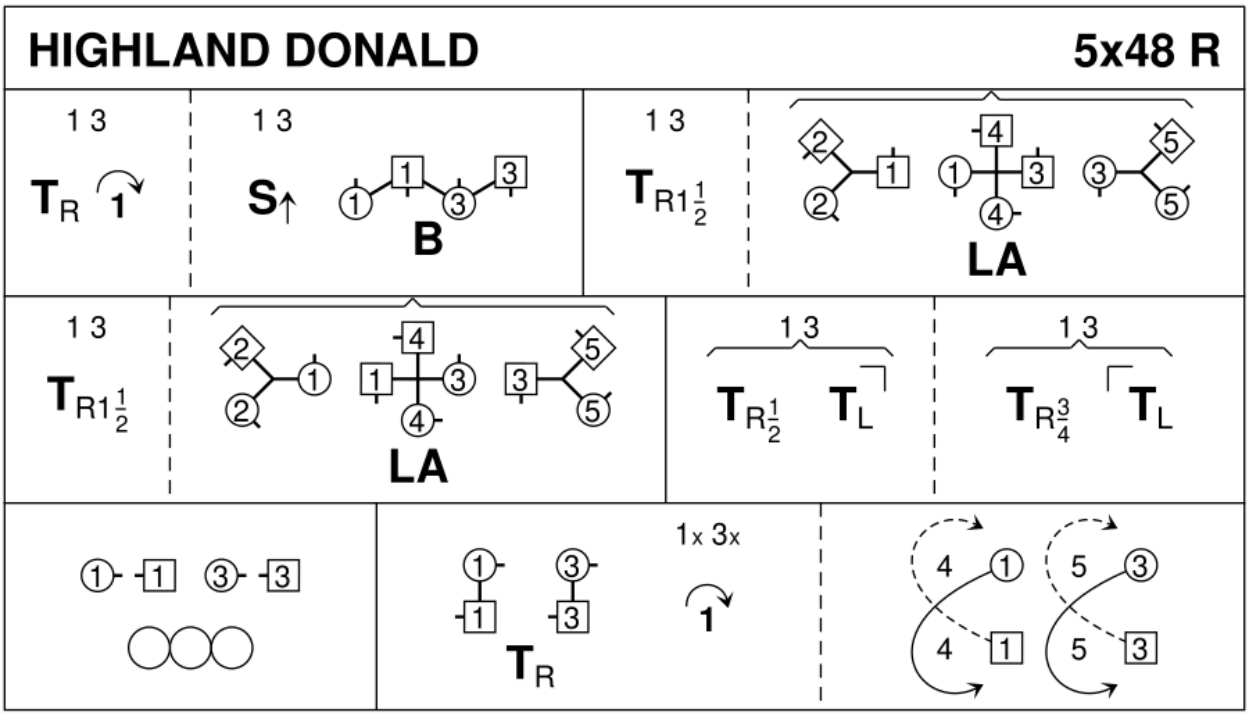
4C/4C square set.

Highland Donald

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

1-4 First and third couples turn with the right hand and cast off, second and fourth couples step up on bars 3 & 4.
5-6 First and third couples set advancing and join right hand with partner, first lady and third man join left hands.
7-8 First and third couples balance in line.
9-12 First and third couples turn one and a half times with the right hand.
13-16 First lady dances left hands across with second couple, first man and third lady dance left hands across with fourth couple and third man dances left hands across with fifth couple.
17-20 First and third couples turn partner one and a half times with the right hand.
21-24 First man dances left hands across with second couple, first lady and third man dance left hands across with fourth couple and third lady dances left hands across with fifth couple.
25-26 First and third couples turn with the right hand to face first corners.
27-28 First and third couples turn their first corners with the left hand.
29-30 First and third couples turn with the right hand to face their second corners.
31-32 First and third couples turn their second corners with the left hand to finish facing up and down in the centre of the set.
33-40 First and third couples dance a reel of four passing own partner by the right to commence, on bar 40 they join right hands with partner in passing.
41-42 First and third couples turn with the right hand to finish in second and fourth places on opposite side of the set facing out.
43-44 First and third couples cast off, fourth and fifth couples step up.
45-48 First couple dance a half figure of eight round fourth couple, who are above them, to finish in third place. Meanwhile, third couple dance a half figure of eight round fifth couple to finish in fifth place.

Repeat with original first couple in third place and a new top couple.
Recommended tune: Highland Donald



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 5C/5C longwise set.

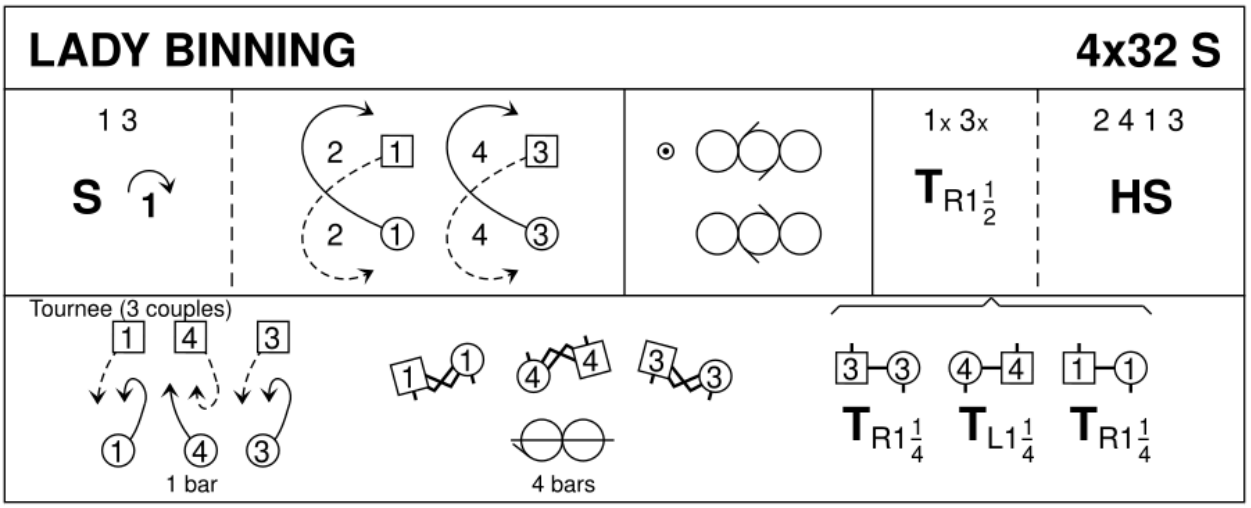
Lady Binning

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

1-4 First and third couples set and cast off one place, second and fourth couples step up on bars 3 & 4.
5-8 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, whilst third couple dance a half figure of eight round fourth couple.
9-16 Mirror reels of four, first and third couples dance in and up to commence whilst second and fourth couples dance out and down.
17-20 First and third couples turn one and a half times with the right hand to finish on own side of the set.
21-24 All join hands on the side and set Highland Schottische.
25-32 First, fourth and third couple dance a tournée for three couples*.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Lady Binning

* The tournée for three couples is described in the appendix of this book.



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

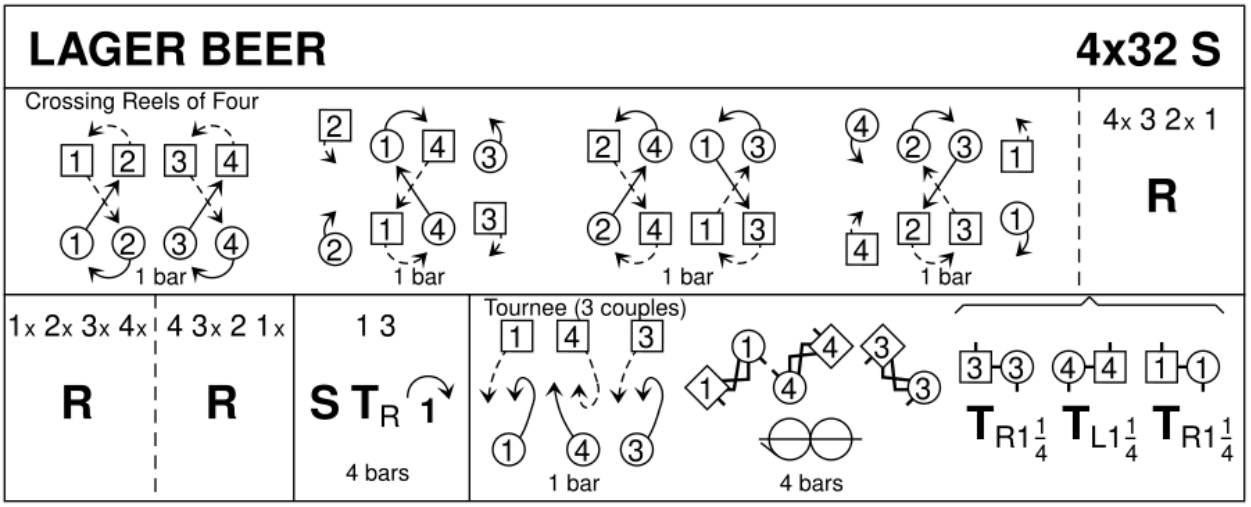
Lager Beer

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

1-8 Crossing reels of four:
all four couples dance mirror reels of four on the sidelines; left shoulder on the ladies' side of the set to commence; on bar 1 first and third couples cross down as the second and fourth dance out and up, on bar 2 fourth couple cross up to second place, on bar 3 second and first couples cross down, on bar 4 third couple cross up, on bar 5 fourth and second couples cross down, on bar 6 first couple cross up, on bar 7 third and fourth couples cross down and on bar eight second couple cross up; all are now in partner's original places.
9-16 Repeat the crossing reels of four to finish back in original places.
17-18 First and third couples set.
19-22 First and third couples turn partner with the right hand once round to finish facing out.
23-24 First and third couples cast off one place whilst second and fourth couples step up.
25-32 First, fourth and third couples dance a tournée for three couples*.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Lager Beer

* The tournée for three couples is described in the appendix of this book.



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

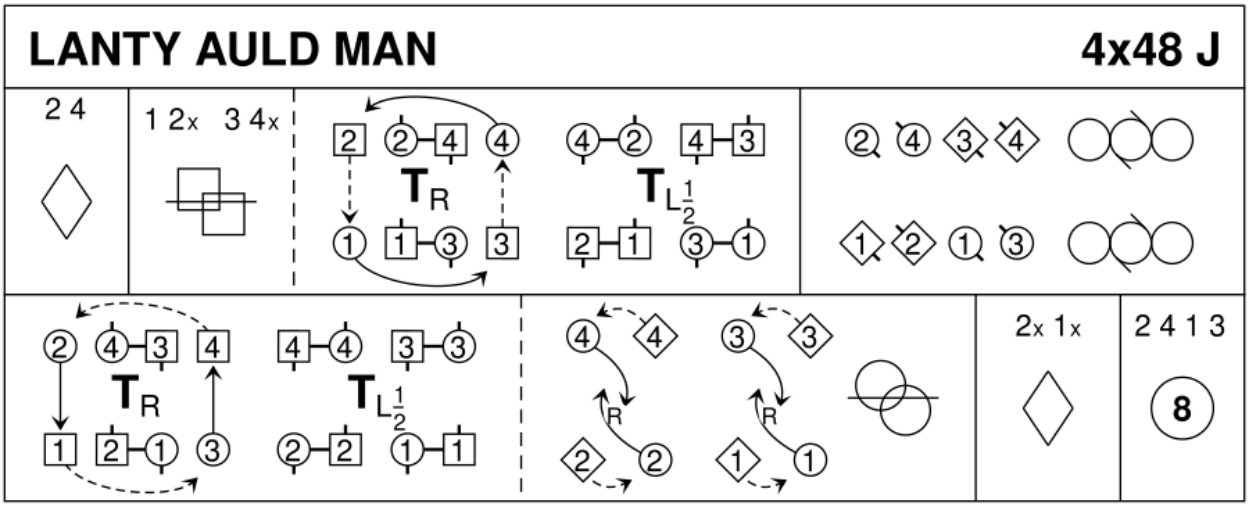
Lanty Auld Man

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

1-8 Second and fourth couples dance petronella to opposite sides.
9-12 First and second couples dance half a ladies' chain; third and fourth couples do the same, all the men finish facing out.
13-14 First man casts into fourth place on own side whilst fourth man casts into first place on opposite side; second and third ladies cross and face out; at the same time first lady and third man turn with the right hand whilst second man and fourth lady do the same.
15-16 All turn the person they meet half way with the left hand, i.e. second and fourth men at the top on ladies' side, third and fourth ladies at the foot on ladies' side, first and second ladies at the top on men's side and first and third men at the foot on men's side.
17-24 All dance reels of four on the sides passing by the left shoulder to commence; first and fourth couples finish facing out.
25-28 Repeat bars 13-16 from new positions:
- 25-26 first lady casts to foot and fourth lady casts to top; second and third men cross; first man and second lady turn right hand, third lady and fourth man turn right hand; all men face out;
- 27-28 all turn original partner half way with the left hand.

29-32 Second and fourth couples at the top dance half a men's chain, the men crossing with right hand and turning the opposite lady with the left, third and first couples do the same at the foot.
33-40 First and second couples dance petronella to return to own side of the set.
41-48 Eight hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Lanty Auld Man

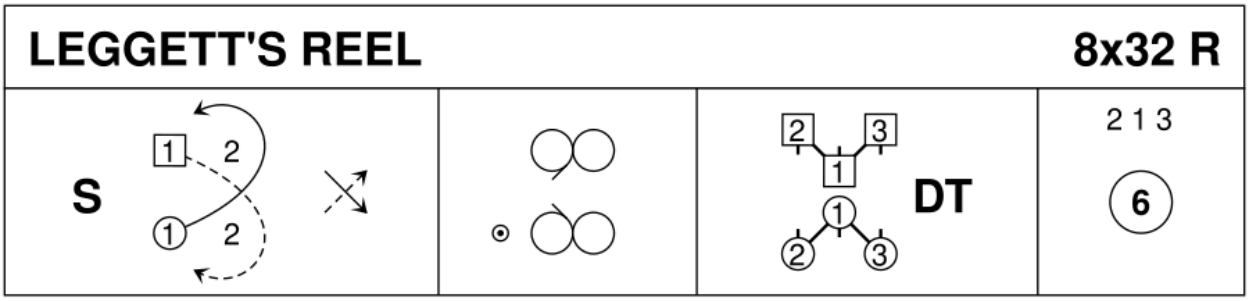


Leggett's Reel

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

1-2 First couple set.
3-6 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple, crossing down to commence.
7-8 First couple cross to second place on own side and face out, second couple step up.
9-16 Reels of three on own side of the set, to commence first and third men pass by the left shoulder and first and third ladies pass by the right, all give nearer hands to partner when leading in from the ends of the reel; first couple finish back to back facing own side of the set.
17-24 First couple dance double triangles with second and third couples, finishing in second place on own side of the set.
25-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Leggett's Reel

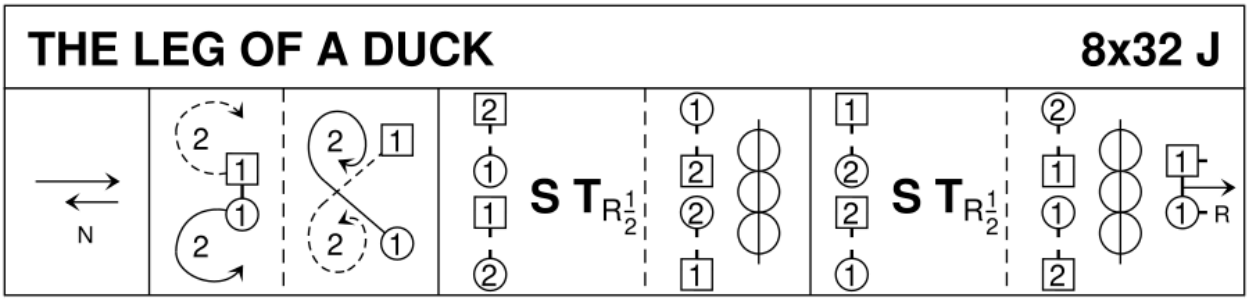


The Leg of a Duck

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

1-8 First couple dance down the middle and back to finish in the centre facing the top, second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
9-11 First couple dance out to own side above second couple and cast off into second place.
12-15 First couple dance a half figure of eight round the second couple.
16 First couple lead up with nearer hand to finish back to back, first lady facing second man and first man facing second lady.
17-20 First and second couples set and change places giving right hand to bring second couple in back to back.
21-24 First and second couples dance a half reel of four.
25-28 First and second couples set and change places giving right hand.
29-32 First and second couples dance a half reel of four to get second couple back to own side, as first couple meet instead of passing by the left they join right hands and on bar 32 lead down to second place, remaining in the middle ready to repeat.

Repeat from second place. At the foot of the set first couple dance out to own side on the last bar instead of leading down.
Recommended time: The Leg Of A Duck



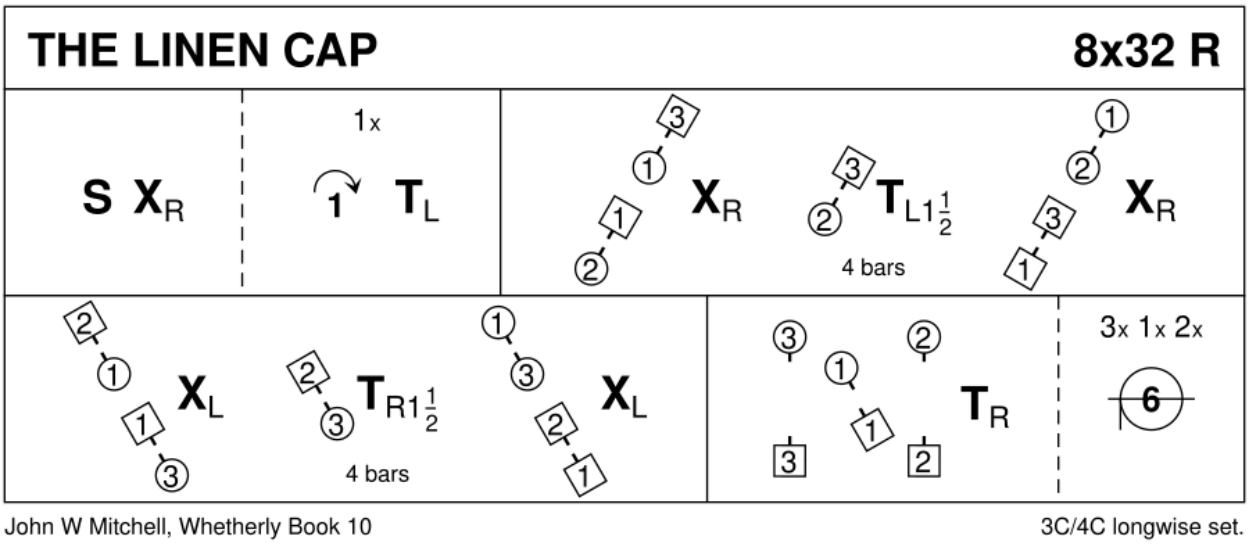
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 2C/4C longwise set.

The Linen Cap

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

1-8 First couple set, cross over giving right hand in passing, cast off and turn with the left hand to face first corners. Second couple step up on bars 5 & 6.
9-10 First couple change places with first corners giving right hand in passing.
11-14 First corners turn one and a half times with the left hand.
15-16 First corners change places with first couple giving right hand.
17-18 First couple change places with second corners giving left hand in passing.
19-22 Second corners turn one and a half times with the right hand.
23-24 Second corners change places with first couple giving left hand in passing.
25-28 All turn own partner with the right hand to finish still on opposite side with first couple in second place.
29-32 Six hands round to the left in a circle half way.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Linen Cap



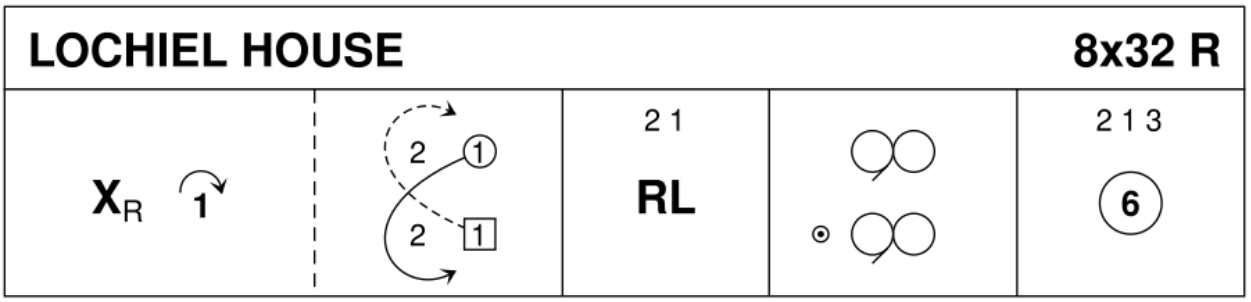
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

Lochiel House

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

1-4 First couple cross giving right hand and cast off into second place; second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
5-8 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple.
9-16 First and second couples dance rights and lefts, first lady and second man finish facing out.
17-24 Second, first and third couples dance reels of three on own side of the set, to commence first and third couples pass by the right shoulder.
25-32 Six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Lochiel House

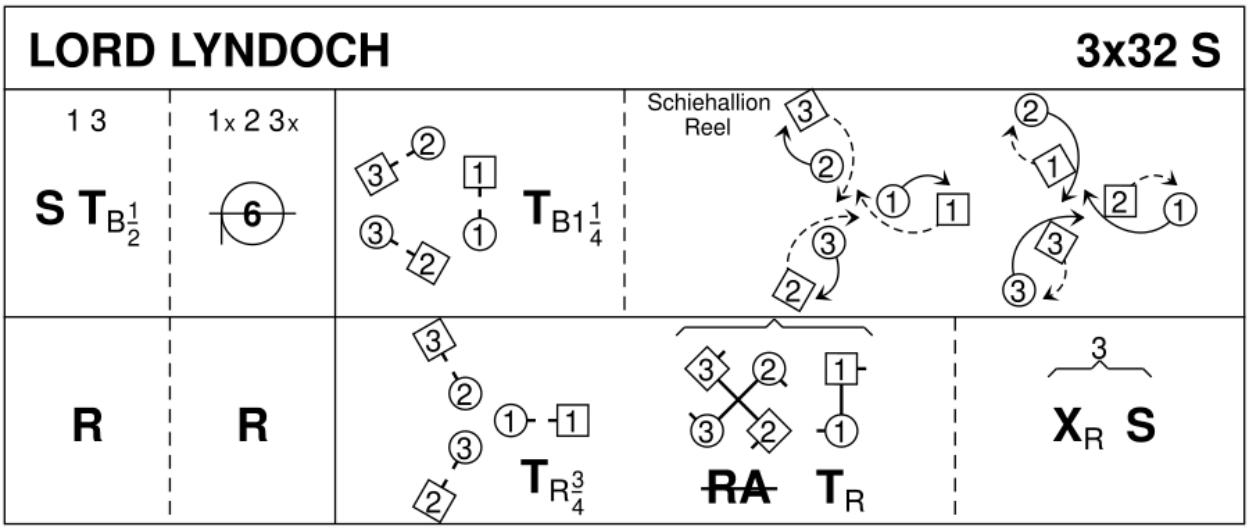


Lord Lyndoch

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

1-4 First and third couples set and turn half way with two hands.
5-8 Six hands round to the left half way.
9-12 Each man turns the lady on his right with two hands one and a quarter times to finish with the men back to back in the middle facing the ladies. First man facing first lady towards the bottom of the set, second man facing third lady who is on the ladies' side and third man facing second lady who is on the men's side.
13-24 Reel of six, in a clover leaf pattern once round. Each lady passes the man she is facing by the right, the three ladies pass left in the middle (⅓ round) and dance out to follow the next man on their right, men dancing out to then follow the same track, passing left in the middle (⅓ round).
25-26 All turn three quarters with the right hand to finish in the side lines: second man turns third lady on the ladies' side, third man turns second lady on the men's side, first couple turn at the foot of the set. Finish with third couple at the top on own side, second couple on the opposite side, and first couple at the foot on own side.
27-28 First couple continue to turn once round with the right hand to own side whilst the second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way.
29-32 Third couple, now in second place, cross to own side giving right hand in passing and set.

Repeat with new top couple.
Recommended tune: Lord Lyndoch



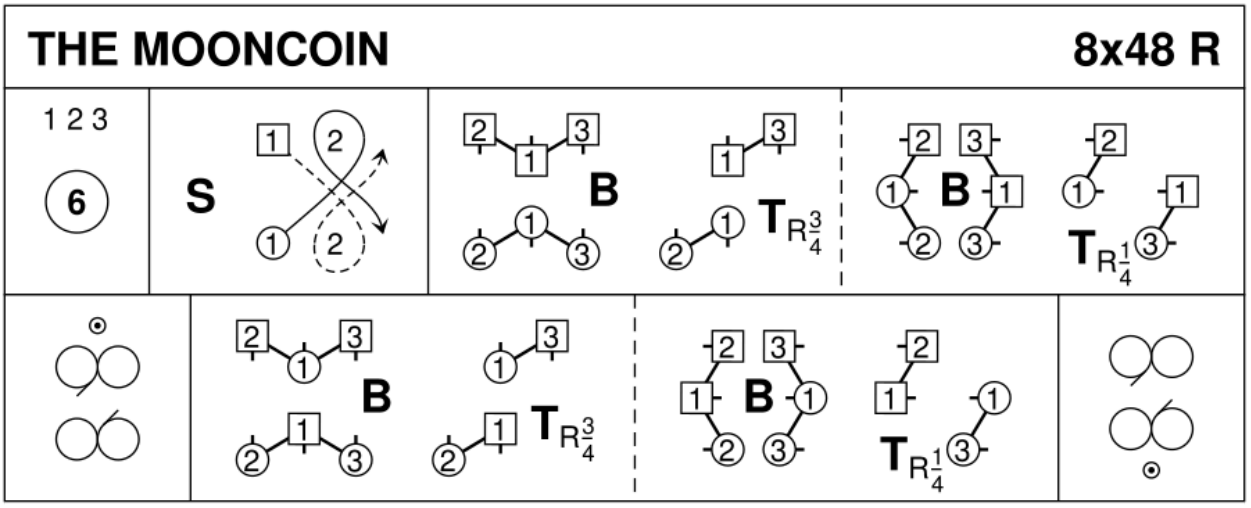
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/3C longwise set.

The Mooncoin

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

1-8 Six hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
9-10 First couple set.
11-14 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple.
15-16 First couple cross to second place on own side and face out, second couple step up.
17-18 Join hands on the side and balance in line.
19-20 First and second men turn three quarters with the right hand, first and third ladies do the same.
21-22 Join hands in lines across the set and balance in line.
23-24 First man and second lady turn a quarter with the left hand, first lady and third man do the same.
25-32 Reels of three on the side passing first corner by the right to commence, first couple finish facing out.
33-34 Join hands on the side and balance in line.
35-36 First man and third lady turn three quarters with the right hand, first lady and second man do the same.
37-38 Join hands in lines across the set and balance in line.
39-40 First and third men turn a quarter with the left hand, first and second ladies do the same.
41-48 Reels of three on own side of the set, first and second men pass right shoulder to commence as do first and third ladies.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Mooncoin



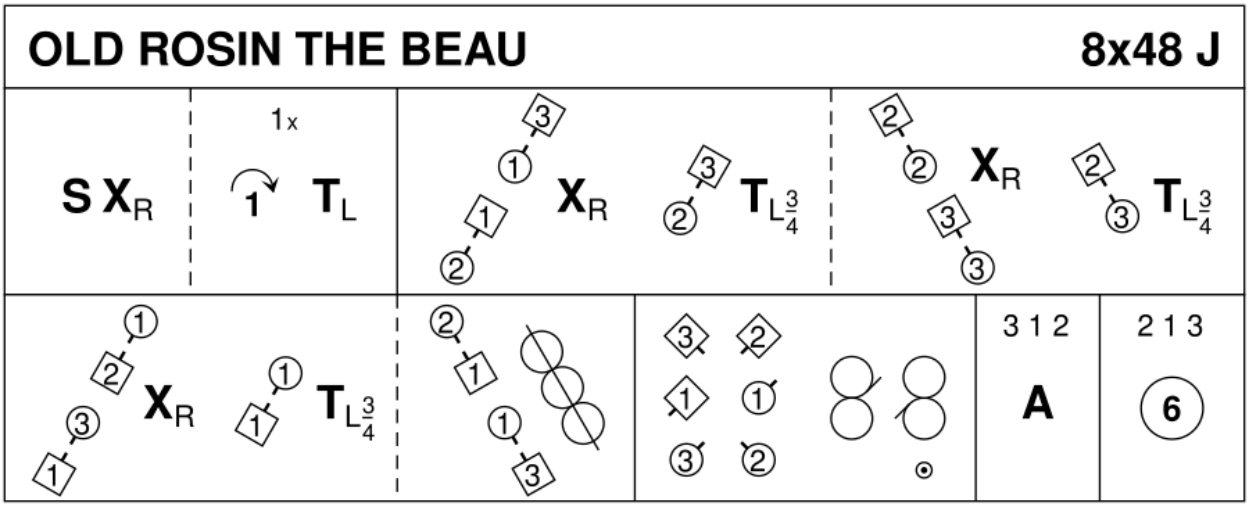
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

Old Rosin The Beau

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

1-8 First couple set, cross giving right hand, cast off into second place and turn left hand to finish facing first corners; second couple step up on bars 5 & 6.
9-10 Change places with first corners giving right hand.
11-12 Second man and third lady turn three quarters with left hand to face own partner.
13-14 Second and third couples change places with own partner giving right hand.
15-16 Second lady and third man turn three quarters with left hand to face first couple.
17-18 First lady and third man change places giving right hand, first man and second lady do the same.
19-20 First couple turn three quarters with the left hand to finish facing their fourth corner position (now occupied by their first corner person).
21-24 First couple dance a half reel of four with their first corners, first couple finish facing their first corner position (now occupied by their second corner person).
25-32 First lady dances a reel of three across the set with third couple passing third man by the left to start, whilst first man dances a reel of three across the set with second couple passing second lady by the left to commence. First couple finish in second place on own side.
33-40 Third, first and second couples dance an allemande.
41-48 Six hands round to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Old Rosin The Beau



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

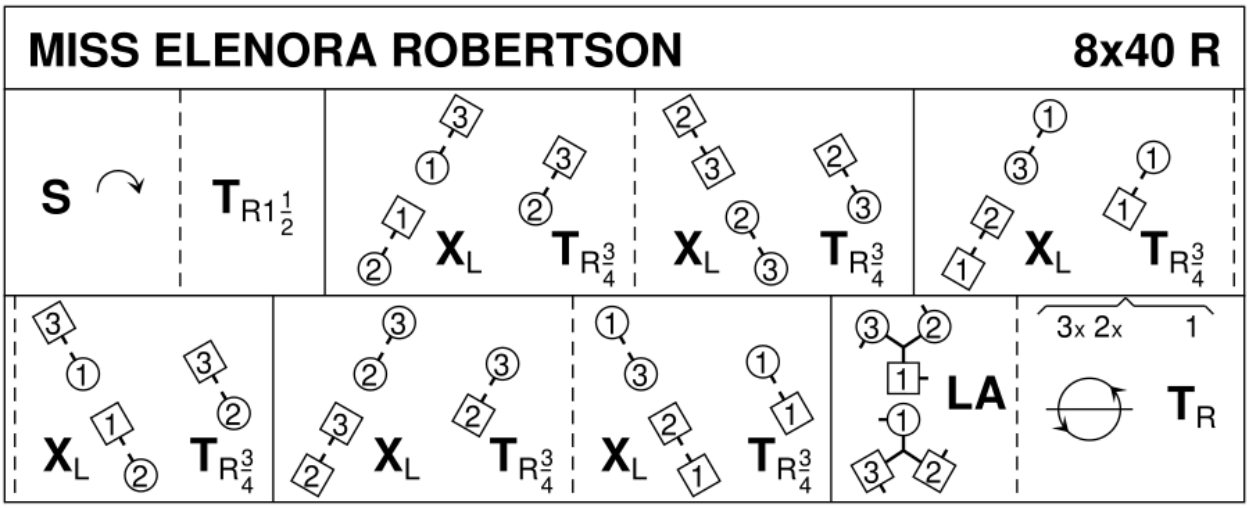
Miss Elenora Robertson

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

1-8 First couple set, cast off and turn with the right hand one and a half times to face first corners.
9-10 First couple change places with their first corners giving left hand in passing.
11-12 Second man and third lady turn with the right hand three quarters round.
13-14 Second and third ladies change places giving left hand whilst second and third men do the same.
15-16 Second lady and third man turn with the right hand three quarters round.
17-18 First and second ladies change places giving left hand whilst first and third men do the same.
19-20 First couple turn with the right hand three quarters round to finish facing their second corner position (now occupied by first corner person), all having moved anticlockwise one place.
21-32 Repeat bars 9-20 from new positions:
- 21-22 turn first corners in with left hand;
- 23-24 corners turn three quarters with right hand;
- 25-26 corners change places left hand;
- 27-28 second corners turn right hand three quarters;
- 29-30 turn dancing couple in with left hand;
- 31-32 first couple turn with right hand.

33-36 First lady with second and third men dance left hands across in a wheel on the ladies' side of the set, whilst first man does the same on the men's side with second and third ladies.
37-40 Second and third couples dance half way round in an anticlockwise circle to own side of the set, whilst first couple turn with the right hand to finish in second place on own side of the set.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Miss Elenora Robertson



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

Parks of Kilbirnie

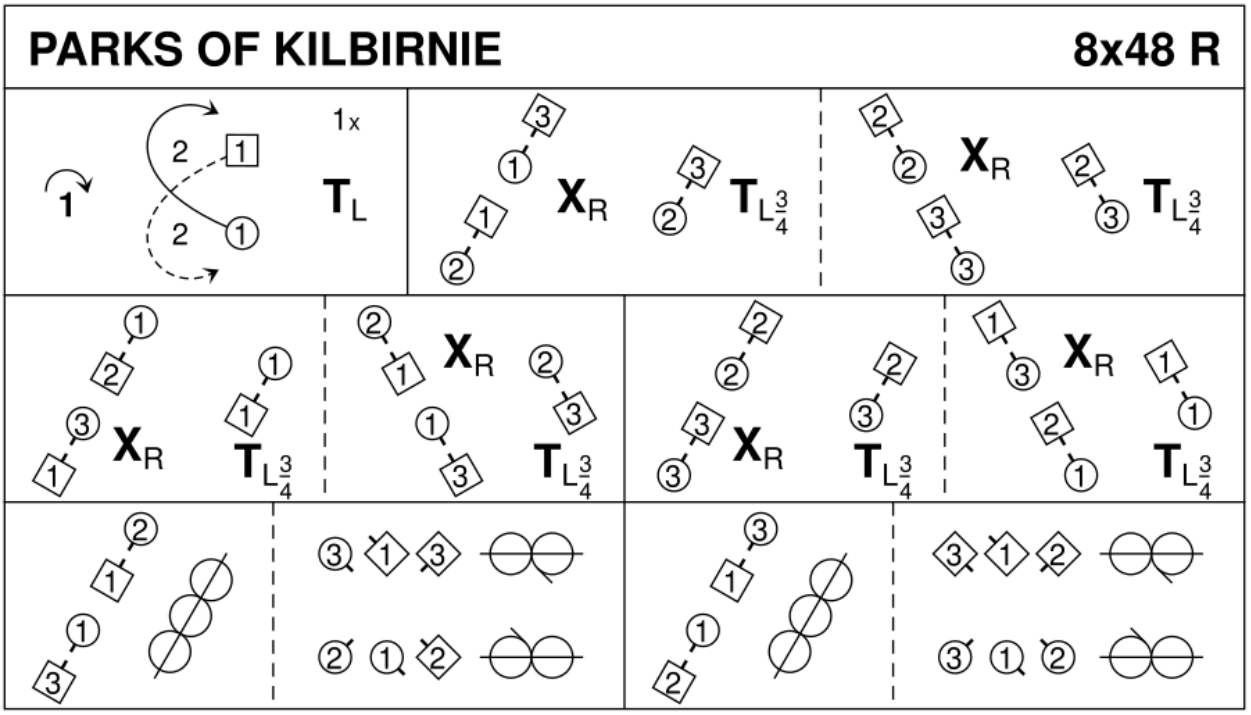
A forty-eight bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set.

1-8 First couple cast off, dance a half figure of eight round second couple and turn left hand to face their first corners. Second couple step up on bars one and two.
9-10 First couple change places with their first corners giving right hand.
11-12 Second man and third lady turn left hand three quarters to face own partner.
13-14 Second couple change places giving right hand, third couple do the same.
15-16 Second lady and third man turn left hand three quarters to face first couple.
17-18 First lady and third man change places right hand whilst first man and second lady do the same.
19-20 First couple turn left hand three quarters to face their fourth corner position (first corner people), all having moved one place clockwise.
21-32 Repeat bars 9-20:
- 21-22 first couple change with corners right hand;
- 23-24 first corners turn left hand to partners;
- 25-26 second and third couples change with right hand;
- 27-28 second corners turn left hand;
- 29-30 corners change with first couple right hand;
- 31-32 first couple turn left hand to face first corner people again, now in third corner position.

33-36 Half a reel of four with first corners, first couple pass left shoulder to finish facing second corner people (in fourth corner position), still on own side of the set. The corners dance a complete loop to their right at the end.
37-40 First couple dance half a reel of three on own side of the set giving left shoulder to fourth corner position to start (i.e. lady up, man down). First couple finish facing third corner position, now occupied by their second corners.
41-48 Repeat bars 33-40, first couple following the same path to finish in second place facing out:
- 41-44 second corners dance a half reel of four back to own side.
- 45-48 corners dance half reels of three on sides (left shoulder to fourth corner position, lady up and man down) to get second couple to the top.

Repeat from second position. At the end of the repeat first couple again finish in second place facing out and cast to the foot on bars 1 & 2 of the next repeat as the new top man starts.
Recommended tune: Parks of Kilbirnie

(diagram on next page)



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10

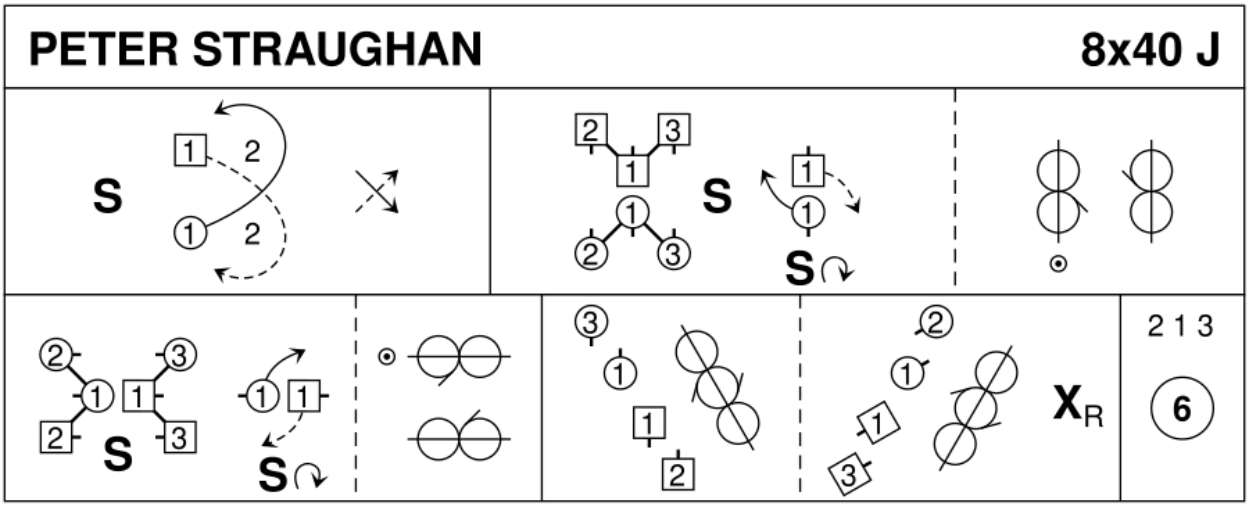
3C/4C longwise set.

Peter Straughan

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

1-8 First couple set, dance a half figure of eight round second couple and cross down to finish back to back facing own side. Second couple step up on bars 7 & 8.
9-10 All set in triangle formation.
11-12 First couple with two pas de basque turn to their right to face their second corners in lines across the set.
13-16 First man dances a right shoulder half reel of three with second couple and first lady does the same with third couple. First couple finish back to back, the man facing up and the lady down.
17-18 Facing up and down all join hands in triangle formation and set.
19-20 First couple turn into the sidelines on opposite side with two pas de basque steps.
21-24 First and third men pass right to dance a half reel of three with second man whilst first and second ladies do the same to dance a half reel with third lady, first couple finish facing second corner position.
25-28 Half reel of four with second corners passing left shoulders to commence, finish facing first corners.
29-32 Half reel of four with first corners passing left shoulder to commence and cross to own side giving right hand in passing.
35-40 Six hands round in a circle to the left and back to the right.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: Peter Straughan



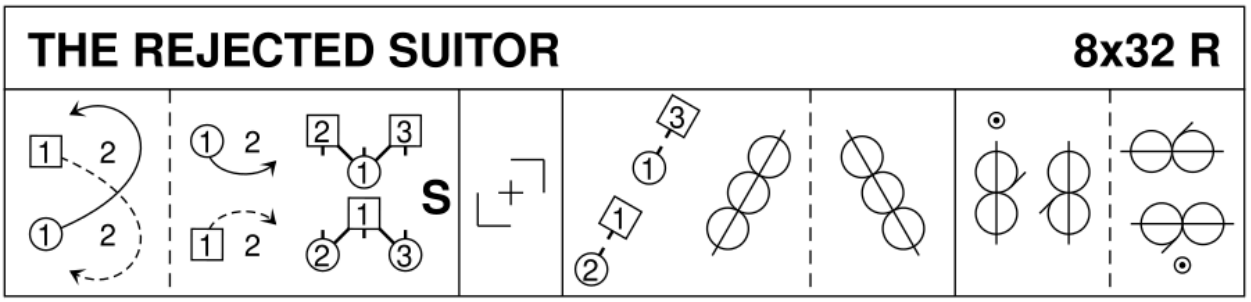
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 3C/4C longwise set.

The Rejected Suitor

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

1-6 First couple dance a half figure of eight round second couple and then lead down to finish back to back facing opposite side. Second couple step up on bars 5 & 6.
7-8 Join hands in triangle formation and set.
9-16 Turn first corner with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corner with the right hand and partner with the left hand. Finish facing first corners.
17-20 Half a reel of four with first corners.
21-24 Half a reel of four with second corners.
25-28 First man passes third lady giving left shoulder to dance a half reel of three across the set with third couple whilst first lady passes second man giving left shoulder to dance a half reel of three with second couple. First couple finish in second place on own side.
29-32 Half reels of three on own side of the set, first and second men pass by the right to commence as do first and third ladies.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Rejected Suitor

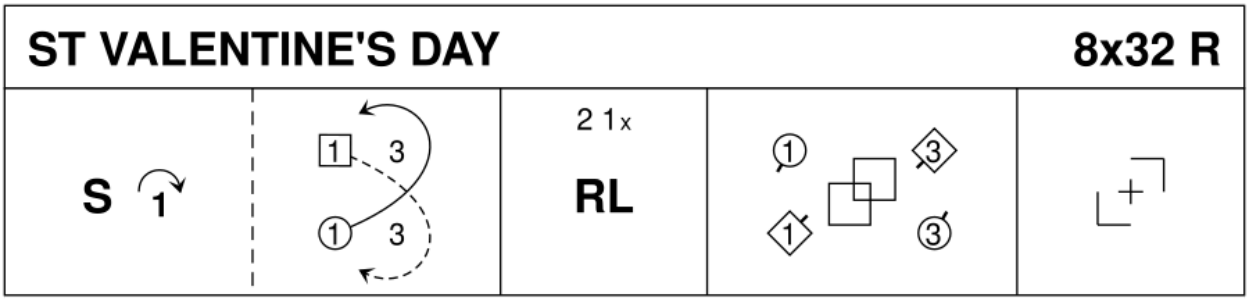


St. Valentine’s Day

A thirty-two bar Reel for three couples in a longwise set. Devised for the RSCDS London Branch and performed at their 1981 weekend school on St. Valentine's Day.

1-8 First couple set, cast off into second place and dance a half figure of eight round third couple. Second couple step up on bars 3 & 4.
9-16 First and second couple dance rights and lefts.
17-24 First and third couples dance a ladies’ chain. The men dance across the set to meet the ladies. First couple finish with a gentle turn to face first corners.
25-32 First couple turn first corner with the right hand, partner with the left hand, second corners with the right hand and cross back to own side giving left hand.

Repeat from second place.
Recommended tune: The Hopeful Lover

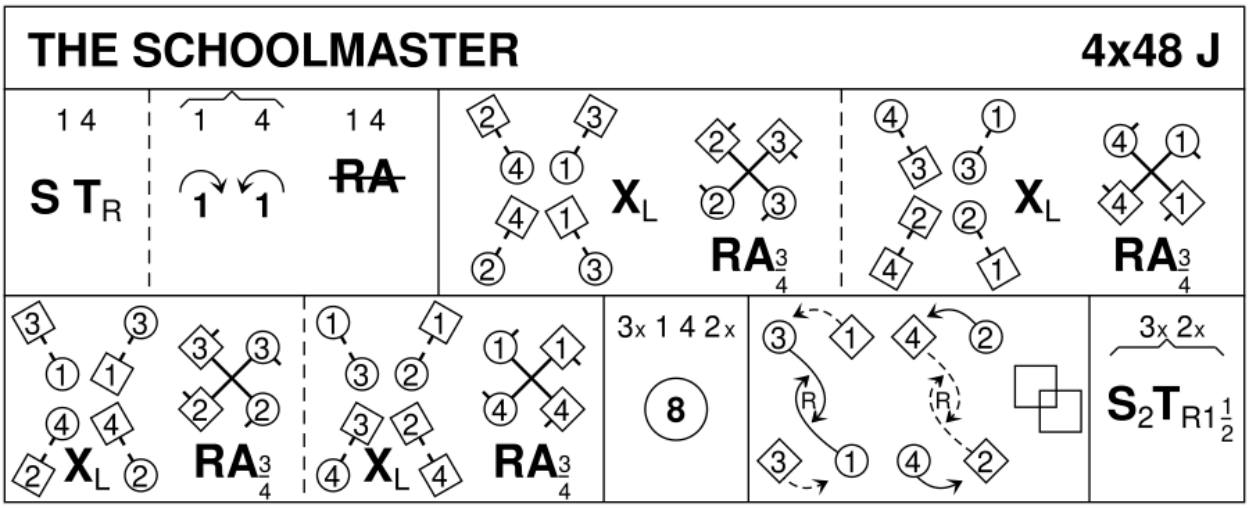


The Schoolmaster

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

1-4 First and fourth couples set and turn right hand.
5-6 First couple cast off into second place, second couple step up, whilst fourth couple cast up into third place, third couple stepping down.
7-8 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way to finish facing their corners.
9-10 First and fourth couples change places with their corners giving left hand in passing.
11-12 Second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel three quarters round to face corners.
13-14 Second and third couples change places with their corners giving left hand in passing.
15-16 First and fourth couples dance right hands across in a wheel three quarters round to face their corners.
17-24 Repeat bars 9-16 from new places. On bar 24 first and fourth couples dance out into the side lines. Order is now 3, 1, 4, 2 with third and second couples on opposite sides.
25-32 Eight hands round to the left in a circle and back to the right.
33-40 Third and first couples dance a ladies' chain, the men dancing across the set to commence. Meanwhile fourth and second couples dance a ladies' chain, the men dancing along the sides to start.
41-48 Third and second couples set for four bars and turn one and a half times with the right hand to finish on own side of the set.

Repeat with new first and fourth couples.
Recommended tune: The Schoolmaster



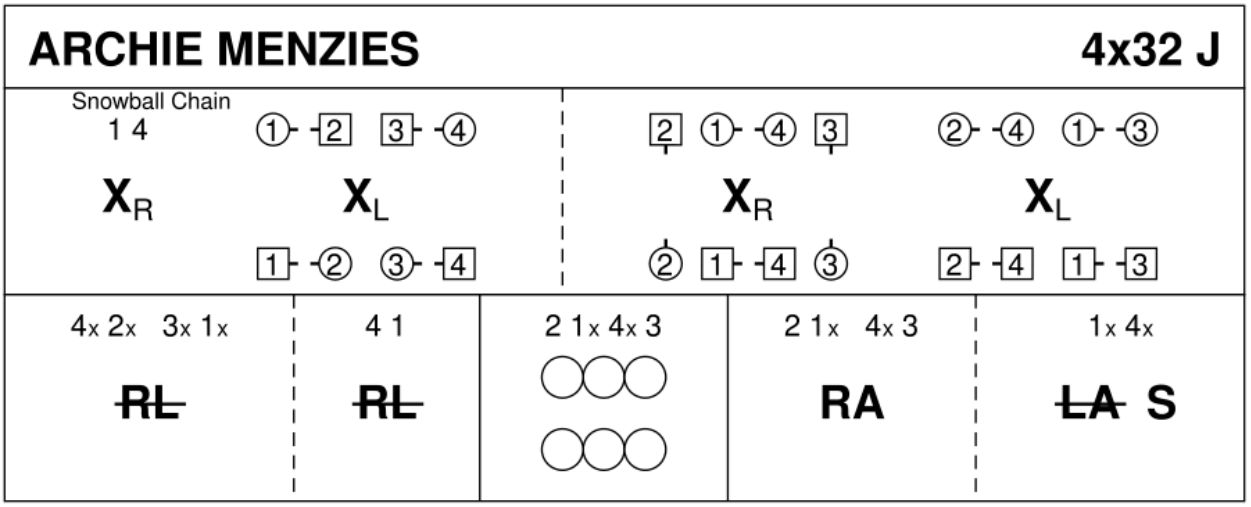
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

Archie Menzies

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

1-8 Snowball chain, half way, two steps to each hand; to start first and fourth couples cross giving right hand in passing, then change places left hand with the other two couples.
9-12 Fourth and second couples dance half rights and lefts, third and first couples do the same.
13-16 Fourth and first couples dance half rights and lefts, first lady and fourth man finish facing out.
17-24 Reels of four on own side 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 Fourth and first couples dance left hands across in wheel half way to own side and set. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new end couples.
Recommended tune: Archie Menzies



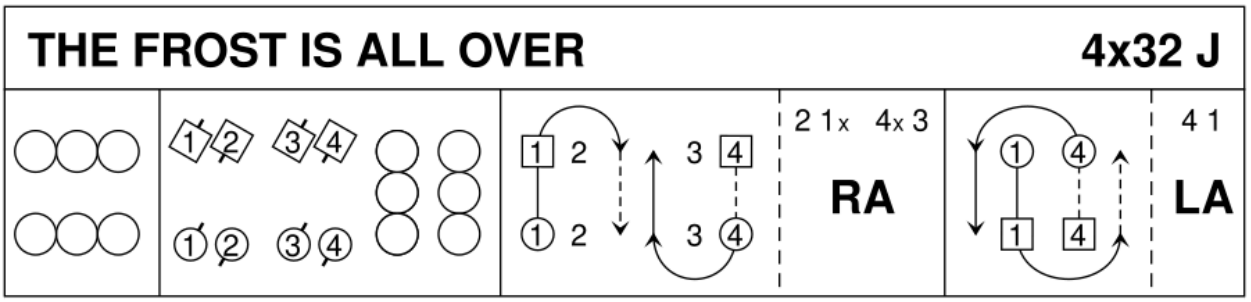
John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

The Frost is all over

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

1-8 Reels of four on own side of the set. First and third ladies and second and fourth men all finish facing out.
9-16 Reels of four across the set, first man and second lady pass left shoulder to commence as do third man and fourth lady. First lady and fourth man finish facing out.
17-20 First lady followed by her partner casts off and crosses over, second couple step up, fourth man followed by his partner casts up and crosses, third couple step down.
21-24 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel, third and fourth couples do the same.
25-28 First lady followed by her partner casts off and crosses over whilst fourth man followed by his partner casts up and crosses over.
29-32 Fourth and first couples dance left hands across in a wheel to finish on own side with fourth man and first lady facing out. Finish in the order 2, 4, 1, 3.

Repeat with new end couples.
Recommended tune: The Frost is all over



John W Mitchell, Whetherly Book 10 4C/4C longwise set.

Appendix to the New Edition: Description of Formations

Tournée for three couples

1 All three couples advance to form a line up and down the centre of the set, the couple at the top facing towards the men's side of the set, the couple in the middle facing the lady's side of the set and the couple at the foot facing the men’s side of the set; each man has his partner on his right, all take a promenade hold with own partner.

2-5 Half a reel of three, with promenade hold up and down the centre of the set to commence the top two couples pass by the left.

6-8 Releasing the promenade hold all face own side of the set and turn partner one and a quarter times with the nearer hand to own side. Top couple turn with the right hand, middle couple turn with the left hand and the bottom couple turn with the right hand; the turns are phrased so that the ladies or men turn shoulder to shoulder each time they pass through the centre line of the set.

Version History

1.00 / 2022-07-09	First re-published version.
1.01 / 2025-04-29	Keith Rose’s diagrams added.
1.02 / 2026-06-18	Keith Rose’s diagrams for “Lanty Auld Man” corrected.