

The Whetherly Collection of Figures and Variations

The Whetherly Books & Sheets Compendium

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Introduction

Throughout the course of the Whetherly Books and Sheets Compendium, several figures and variations were introduced, yet described in full only in selected dances rather than consistently with each appearance. Sometimes the descriptions would appear with the dance, sometimes at the front of the book; sometimes at the back of the book; and sometimes the reader was referred to a different dance or publication. For ease of reference, these descriptions have been collected into this document, saving both ourselves and everybody else some time and effort.

Nevertheless, we cannot guarantee that these figures and variations all had their origin within the Whetherly Compendium. Some may have been newly devised by John W. Mitchell, but many may not have been. Without further investigating the chronological background and development, we will refrain from any claims to this end, simply gathering the more unusual figure descriptions into a single place.

Where possible, we have endeavoured to refer to the dances in which the formations appear, as well as to rewrite the instructions into a more generic form for this collection of figures and variations. Perhaps this will enable some of the figures to be taught more easily, to pique curiosity and maybe to gain some popularity. Perhaps some of the figures will start to feature in more newly devised dances. The Highland Schottische petronella works well - the Highland Schottische circle somewhat less so. The Tournée for three couples is worth a go for experienced dancers.

We have also taken the liberty of suggesting alternative names for several figures. “Figure of eight through wheels” is rather more succinct than “Figure of eight round two couples who are simultaneously setting and wheeling across half way and back”, and we adopt “Cloverleaf cross” as a new name for “Cross and Cast” to avoid confusion with cross and cast.

A similar issue occurred with “Circle and cast”, although in this case we struggled to find an appropriate name encapsulating the circle and wheeling motions. Eventually, we asked for help - using the reach of social media in a facebook group of SCD teachers, we set up a poll for appropriate names. The most-voted suggestion was “The Furlie” – a pleasant Scottish word meaning “a piece of machinery or equipment, especially one that has wheels or revolves”. Unfortunately, this name is likely not transparent enough for many non-scottish Scottish dancers, so we opted for the rather more tame edit of “circle with cast”. At least it alleviates the formerly implied sequence of “first a circle, then a cast”.

As to the etymology of Splat, Splunge and Spurtle - your guess is as good as mine.

Alison M. W. Mitchell (2023)

Content - Version A

This document regrouped all new figures and variations for existing figures according to the main underlying figure. These groups are now ordered alphabetically.

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Content - Version B

This lists the figures and figure variations in the order of first appearance throughout the Whetherly books and sheets. The Whetherly sheets are listed separately to the Whetherly books, as the exact chronological ordering of each sheet with respect to the books is not known.

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Chain Variations

Dropout chain

Four couple formation in a longwise set. The figure is described with dancers starting in their original places, and the dropout takes place from the top to the bottom of the set. The dropout chain can also be done progressing from the bottom to the top of the set. In further variations, top and bottom couples may start by crossing with their partner across the dance. The figure can start with the left hand.

- 1-2 First and second couples change places on the sides giving right hands, whilst third and fourth couples do the same. Second couple are now in top place on their own sides and drop out of the chain.
- 3-4 Third couple cross to opposite side giving left hands, whilst second and fourth couples change places on the sides giving left hands. Fourth couple are now in second place on their own sides and drop out of the chain.
- 5-6 First and third couples change places on the sides giving right hands. Third couple are now in third place on opposite sides and drop out of the chain.
- 7-8 First couple, now in fourth place, cross to opposite side giving left hands.

Book 15: Betty Paton

Book 15: Callum Donaldson

Book 17: Gin Worth Living

Book 18: Miss Rae Of Eskgrove

Book 20: Ruthven House

Book 20: Willy Davie

Whetherly Sheets 3: The Auld Grey Cat (variation, starting across)

Whetherly Sheets 48: The Peacock (variation, starting left hand)

Progressive dropout chain

Four couple formation in a longwise set. The figure is described with dancers starting in their original places. Men facing men and ladies facing ladies on the sidelines as if to start a reel of four. In further variations, top and bottom couples may start by crossing with their partner across the dance.

- 1-2 All change places with the person that they are facing giving right hand.
- 3-4 First and fourth couples change places on the sides giving left hand. Meanwhile second and third couples turn with the left hand.
- 5-6 Third couple drop out of the chain and remain in fourth place as second and fourth couples change places on the sides giving right hand. Meanwhile first couple turn with the right hand.
- 7-8 Fourth couple turn with the left hand to finish in first place as first and second couples change places on the sides giving left hand.
All dancers are now on own sides in the order 4, 1, 2, 3.

Book 23: Rannock Moor

Whetherly Sheets No. 3: The Auld Grey Cat (variation)

Corners chain and chase

Three couple formation, based on a 10 bar phrase. It starts with first couple facing first corners, second and third couple being in original places. The pattern might be repeated with second corners, keeping all basic directions as in bars 1-10.

- 1-2 First couple turn first corners half way with the right hand.
- 3-6 First man crosses below third man and casts up to first place, first lady crosses above second lady and casts off to third place, second man and third lady turn one and a half times with the left hand.
- 7-8 First man and third lady change places giving right hand, first lady and second man do the same.
- 9-10 First couple turn three quarters with the left hand to face second corners.

Book 16: The Cooper's Wife

Interlocking travel and chain

Four couple formation. The figure is described generically with dancers starting in their original places.

- 1-2 First couple cross diagonally below second couple, whilst second, third and fourth couples set.
- 3-4 First couple cast off behind third position, whilst the other three couples dance the first two bars of a grand chain, two steps to each hand. Second couple cross over, third and fourth couples change places on the sides all giving right hand.
- 5-6 First couple cross diagonally below fourth position to return to own side whilst second, fourth and third couples set.
- 7-8 First couple cast up behind fourth position, whilst the other three couples continue with the grand chain. Third couple cross over, second and fourth couples change places on the sides, all giving left hand.
- 9-10 First couple cross diagonally between third position to opposite side, whilst fourth, second and third couples all set.
- 11-12 First couple cast up into first place on opposite side, whilst the other three couples continue the chain. Fourth couple cross over and second and third couples change places, all giving right hands.

Whetherly Sheets No. 58: The Wedding Night

Circle Variations

Highland Schottische circle

Circles facing alternately in and out have been used in several dances. Use of the Highland Schottische step for this purpose reverses the direction of travel of the circle and slows the speed of rotation to reduce the distance covered in relation to the music.

Three couple formation. To commence, all are in lines across the dance, first lady between second couple facing down and first man between third couple facing up, all hands joined.

- 1-2 All set with Highland Schottische right foot, release hands at the end of bar 2 and turn to right to face out.
- 3-4 Joining hands again all set Highland Schottische with left foot, release hands at end of bar 4 and turn to left to face in.
- 5-8 Repeat bars 1-4.

Book 2: McPhedrun's Strathspey

Circle with cast

The original name of this figure is "Circle and cast". As the editors considered this name rather impractical as it is too similar to a common dancing sequence, this figure has been renamed for the re-publication. (Alternatively "The Furlie" – see introduction.)

Three couple formation. The figure is described with dancers starting in their original places, second couple on opposite side.

- 1-2 All three couples join hands and dance six hands round in a circle to the left.
- 3-4 The three ladies dance right hands across in a wheel. At the same time the men cast anticlockwise to pass two ladies.
- 5-6 All three couples join hands and dance six hands round in a circle to the right.
- 7-8 The three men dance left hands across in a wheel. At the same time the ladies cast clockwise to pass two men.
Finish with first couple in second place on opposite side, second couple in third place on own side and third couple in first place on own side.

Wetherly Sheets No. 60: Balcomie House

Wetherly Sheets No. 62: The Falls of Lorna

Wetherly Sheets No. 63: The Grinder's Hornpipe

Corner Variations

Double turn corner, partner, corner and partner

Four couple formation in a longwise set. First and fourth couples on own side facing diagonally in, second and third couples back-to-back in the centre of the set, facing a corner.

- 1-2 Second and third couples turn their corners with the right hand.
- 3-4 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, to face the diagonally opposite corner.
- 5-6 Second and third couples turn their corners with the right hand.
- 7-8 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, to face the original corner.

Book 23: Humberstone's Magic Piano

Double set to and turn corners

Four couple formation in a longwise set. First and fourth couples on own side facing diagonally in, second and third couples back-to-back in the centre of the set, facing a corner.

- 1-2 Second and third couples set to their corners.
- 3-4 Second and third couples turn their corners with two hands, moving one place anticlockwise to face the next corner.
- 5-6 Second and third couples set to the next corners.
- 7-8 Second and third couples turn their corners with two hands, moving one place anticlockwise to finish facing the corner diagonally opposite from their starting point .

Book 23: The Waefu' Heart

Double corners pass and turn

Four couple formation in a longwise set. For ease of reference, the figure is described with the men being in corner positions (first and fourth place), whilst the ladies are in the centre of the set, back-to-back, each facing their partner who serves as corner.

- 1-2 Passing their partners by the right shoulder to start, the men dance a quick right hands across in the centre once round to face their own corner position. Meanwhile, the ladies pass their partner to dance out to corner positions.
- 3-4 The men dance back out to place. Meanwhile, in passing their partners by the right shoulder, the ladies dance a quick right hands across in the centre three quarters round to face the next corner anticlockwise around the set.
- 5-8 They repeat this 4 bar movement.

Whetherly Sheets No. 76: The Bridges

Progressive double corners pass and turn

Four couple formation in a longwise set. For ease of reference, the figure is described with the men being in corner positions (first and fourth place), whilst the ladies are in the centre of the set, back-to-back, each facing their partner who serves as corner.

- 1-2 In passing their partners by the right shoulder, the men dance a quick right hands across in the centre, three quarters round to face a corner position one place anticlockwise from their original position. Meanwhile, the ladies pass their partner to dance out to corner positions.
- 3-4 The men dance back out to a new corner position. Meanwhile, in passing a man by the right shoulder, the ladies dance a quick right hands across in the centre three quarters round to face a corner on the other diagonal.
- 5-8 They repeat this 4 bar movement.

Whetherly Sheets No. 77: Miss E. Purcell

Cloverleaf cross

The original name of this figure is "Cross and cast". As the editors considered this name rather impractical as it is too similar to a common dancing sequence, this figure has been renamed for the re-publication.

Three couple formation. The description starts with couples in the order 2, 1, 3. First couple follow the track of a Mairi's Wedding reel of four giving right hands each time they pass; whilst second and third couples cross and set, change places on the side and set; and repeat.

- 1-2 All cross giving right hand to partner.
- 3-4 First couple cast round first corner to finish with first lady between second couple facing down and first man between third couple facing up. Meanwhile, second and third couples set (facing partner with right foot) turning to face up and down on the sides (with the left foot): second couple facing down and third couple facing up.
- 5-6 All three couples change places, up and down the set giving right hand in passing.
- 7-8 First couple cast round second corner position. Meanwhile, second and third couples set turning to face partner across the set.
- 9-10 All cross over giving right hand in passing.
- 11-12 First couple cast round third corner position. Meanwhile, second and third couples set turning to face up and down the set.
- 13-14 All three couples change places up and down the set, giving right hand in passing.
- 15-16 First couple cast round fourth corner position to finish in second place on own side. Meanwhile, second and third couples set turning to face partner across the set.

Whetherly Sheets No. 60: Balcomie House

Whetherly Sheets No. 63: The Grinder's Hornpipe

Figure of Eight Variations

Interlocking figures of eight

Three couple formation. Generic description with all couples in original places.

- 1-8 First couple dance a figure of eight across the set through first and second place, casting down to commence and third couple dance a figure of eight across the set through third and second place, casting up to commence; men as well as ladies meet in second place where possible. Meanwhile, second couple dance a figure of eight on own sides of the set, second man dances up and in to commence whilst second lady dances down and in to commence.

Book 21: Miss Rose of Tirlogie

Figure of eight through wheels

The original name of this figure is “Figure of eight round two couples who are simultaneously setting and wheeling across half way and back”. As the editors considered this name rather impractical, this figure has been renamed for the re-publication.

Three couple formation. First couple is in second place own side, second couple in first place.

- 1-8 First couple dance figures of eight on own sides of the set, first man dancing in and up to start and first lady dancing in and down to start. Meanwhile, second and third couples:
- 1-2 set;
 - 3-4 dance right hands across in a wheel half way;
 - 5-6 set;
 - 7-8 dance left hands across in a wheel half way.

Book 21: Father Kelly

Flip Figures

Flip

Two couple formation.

- 1-2 First and second couples join hands on the sides and set.
- 3-4 First man and second lady turn three quarters with the right hand to finish on their own sides, first man in second place and second lady in first place. Meanwhile, first lady casts off into second place and second man casts up into first place on own sides.

Book 23: Bangers and Beans

Book 23: The Grey Buck

Reverse Flip

Two couple formation.

- 1-2 First and second couples join hands on the sides and set.
- 3-4 First man and second lady turn three quarters with the left hand to finish in their partners places. Meanwhile, first lady casts off into second place and second man casts up into first place.

Book 23: The Fairy on the Tree

Book 23: The Waefu' Heart

Hello-Goodbye Variations

Highland Schottische Hello-Goodbye setting

Substitution of the Highland Schottische step for the normal strathspey setting step causes the direction of travel of the dancing couple to be reversed from anticlockwise to clockwise. This movement occupies no more time than the usual setting but extends the possibilities of the formation.

Three couple formation. First couple starts facing second corners.

- 1-2 First couple set to second corner with Highland Schottische step, moving into the side lines on bar 2 and turning on the hop to face own partner across the set.
- 3-4 First couple set to partner across the set with Highland Schottische step left foot, turning in to face first corner at the end of bar 4, whilst second corners complete the setting.
- 5-6 First couple set to first corner turning to face partner up and down the set.
- 7-8 First couple set to partner and finish facing up and down the set, whilst first corners complete the setting.

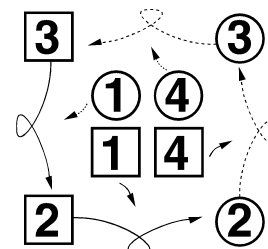
Book 2: Francis Sitwell's Strathspey
 Book 2: Smith's a Gallant Fireman (double)

Corners petronella round a double Hello-Goodbye setting

First and fourth couples are back-to-back in the centre of the set, facing their corners. First and fourth couples dance Hello-Goodbye setting for eight bars, whilst second and third couples move anticlockwise round the set with a petronella turn to change places and set at their new corner positions.

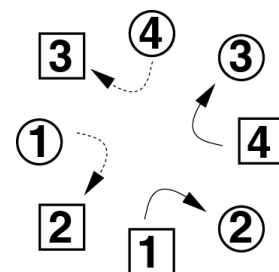
- 1-2 The first and fourth couples set to their corner positions with the right foot on bar 1, moving to their left on bar 2 to finish facing up and down or across the set. Meanwhile second and third couples move anticlockwise one corner position round the set with a petronella turn, see figure 1.

Figure 1



- 3-4 All join hands in a circle and set on bar 3, couples one and four release their left hands on bar 4 and set turning to their right to finish back-to-back in the middle facing their corners, see figure 2.

Figure 2



At the end of bar 4 all eight dancers will have moved one place anticlockwise round the set and will be facing the same person as at the commencement of bar 1.

- 5-8 Bars 1-4 are repeated to progress one more position and finish in the diagonally opposite position to which the dancers started.

Note: the above diagrams show the positions for bars 9-12 of "Dr McHardy"; the positions are completely different in "The Blacksmith", but the movements are the same.

Book 3: The Blacksmith
 Book 3: Dr McHardy

“Offset” Hello-Goodbye setting

Four couple formation in a longwise set. It starts with second couple in first place, third lady in second place own side, third man and fourth couple in original places. First lady faces second man, first man faces fourth lady, to form a line on the first corner diagonal. The movement always occurs with the pas de basque on the left foot.

- 1-2 First man sets to fourth lady to finish on the ladies side facing third man; first lady sets to second man to finish on the men’s side facing third lady. .
- 3-4 First man sets across the set to third man to finish facing third lady; first lady sets across the set to third lady to finish facing third man.
- 5-6 First man sets to third lady, to finish in the centre of the set, facing down the set towards first lady ; first lady sets to third man, to finish in the centre of the set, facing up the set towards first man.
- 7-8 First couple set to each other; first lady advances diagonally to her right to finish facing up the set, next to her partner. First man, on his left step, pulls right shoulder back to finish on his partner’s left, facing up the set.

Whetherly Sheets No. 79: Always welcome

More Hello-Goodbye Variations

Whetherly Sheets No. 73: St. Maelrubba of Applecross (petronella around Hello-Goodbye setting)

Knot Variations

Granny knot for two couples

The granny knot is a left handed version of a standard knot.

- 1-2 Both couples 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.
- 3-4 Both couples allemande down the ladies' side of the set.
- 5-8 Releasing the left hand they turn with the right hand to own sides of the set.

Book 12: The March to the Battlefield

Book 17: The Growling Old Woman

Granny knot for three couples

The granny knot is a left handed version of a standard knot. This generic description commences with all dancers in original positions.

- 1-2 Turn partners half way with the left hand to finish all facing the top, the men lifting their partner's left hand over their heads into a left handed allemande position.
- 3-5 First couple, followed by second and third couples, curve round and dance down the ladies' side, releasing left hands at the end of bar 5.
- 6 The men, continuing to dance down the ladies' side, begin to turn as they pass their partners across in front of them; the ladies take a long step towards the middle.
- 7-8 All continue to turn with the right hand to own side.

Book 11: Blairnane's Rant

Double knot

Four couple formation in a longwise set. This generic description commences with everyone in original positions.

- 1-2 All join hands on the sides and set.
- 3-6 All turn one and a half times with the right hand to finish facing down in an allemande hold.
- 7-8 Second couple followed by first couple cast up to first place on the ladies' side; fourth couple followed by third couple cast up to third place on the ladies' side.
- 9-10 Without releasing the allemande hold, all dance into the centre of the set and face down.
- 11-16 Second couple release right hands and turn to first place on own sides with the left hand. Meanwhile the other three couples complete a knot: on bars 11-13, third couple followed by fourth and first couples cast up on the ladies' side to second place; on bars 14-16 they release right hands and turn with the left hand to own sides of the set.

Book 18: Melfort Strathspey

More knot variations

Further variations on the knot, in which 6 bars are standard and 2 bars vary, can be found in the following dances:

Book 15: The Camel's Hump (Variation 1)

Book 18: Miss Maclachlan's March (Variation 2)

Book 19: Robert Innes (Variation 3)

Petronella Variations

Highland Schottische petronella

This movement follows the normal pattern of a strathspey petronella, with the setting to partner at each point of the diamond omitted. It thus occupies the same amount of music as a conventional strathspey petronella.

Three couple formation, starting in the order 2, 1, 3.

- 1-2 First couple set with Highland Schottische step, right foot, turning on the hop at the end of bar 2 to face out on a diagonal line.
- 3-4 First couple again set with Highland Schottische step, left foot, moving diagonally to finish man between third couple, and lady between second couple on bar 12, once again turning on the hop to finish facing up and down the set.
- 5-8 This movement is repeated on bars 5-8 to finish on the opposite side.

Book 2: The Comfrey Medley
Book 2: The Iron Man (double)
Book 2: McKenzie Hay (double)

Turn within a petronella

Two couple formation. Often comes in tandem with “Cross giving hands through a petronella” as an 8 bar figure. The description shows the possible first 4 bars of the sequence; the petronella turns could also be the second 4 bars of the 8 bar petronella phrase. All couples are in original places.

- 1-4 Second couple dance the first 4 bars of petronella. Meanwhile, first couple:
 - 1-2 cast off into second place (whilst second couple petronella turn into the centre of the set);
 - 3-4 turn with the right hand (in between second couple as they are setting).

Book 23: Aldivalloch
Book 23: The Rose of Half town

Cross giving hands through a petronella

Two couple formation. Often comes in tandem with “Turn within a petronella” as an 8 bar figure. The description shows the possible first 4 bars of the sequence; the petronella turns could also be the second 4 bars of the 8 bar petronella phrase. All couples are in original places.

- 1-4 Second couple dance the first four bars of petronella. Meanwhile, first couple:
 - 1-2 cast off into second place (whilst second couple petronella turn into the centre of the set);
 - 3-4 cross to opposite sides giving left hand and finish facing out (in between second couple as they are setting).

Book 23: Aldivalloch
Book 23: The Green Jersey
Book 23: The Rose of Half town

Corners petronella round a double Hello-Goodbye setting

See also [Hello-Goodbye Variations](#)

More petronella variations

Whetherly Sheets No. 24: Kind Robin (petronella elements throughout the whole dance)

Whetherly Sheets No. 50: Peat Bog (petronella with supporting couples joining partially only)

Whetherly Sheets No. 73: St. Maelrubba of Applecross (petronella around Hello-Goodbye setting)

Poussette Variations

Half a poussette (quick time)

Two couple formation. "Half a poussette" is basically identical in all versions for bars 1-3. Bar 4 is different and used to reposition the dancers as to where they are needed. The Whetherly Books show "standard" setups as well as versions up and down the set, with own or other partners.

- 1 Away from the centre.
- 2 Quarter turn.
- 3 Travel up or down to bring both couples to the same height.
- 4 Various endings, mostly opening up the couples in some form.

Book 16: Cookie Shine

Book 16: Duncan The Gauger

Book 16: Dunse Dings A'

Book 18: Liberty for the Sailors

Book 18: Miss Forbes Farewell To Banff

Book 18: Miss Isaac Forsyth-Elgin

Book 20: Tom Kettles

Square poussette half way (quick time)

Four couple formation in a square set. It starts with all couples in original places, facing partner, both hands joined. In this example, the poussette finishes with two lines of four across the set.

- 1 The ladies retire as the men advance.
- 2 All make a quarter turn to the right.
- 3 The men retire as the ladies advance.
- 4 All make a quarter turn to the right.
- 5 The ladies retire as the men advance.
- 6 First and third men make a quarter turn to their left releasing their partners right hands; whilst first and third ladies make a quarter turn to their right; so that both couples have their backs to their opposite places. At the same time second and fourth couples release their partners and retire to finish with second lady and fourth man in line with first couple (facing up), and second man and fourth lady in line with third couple (facing down).
- 7 All join hands and retire.
- 8 The men make a quarter turn to their left and the ladies make a quarter turn to their right to finish in two lines across the set, all facing their corner partners.

Whetherly Sheets No. 62: The Falls of Lorna

Quern Progression Figures

Quern progression for two couples

- 1-3 First and second couples turn partner with the right hand once round.
- 4-6 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel halfway.
- 7-8 Second and first couples cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

This should be danced as a continuous flowing movement in the middle of the set; dancers should not return to the side lines at the end of bar 3 or bar 6. After joining hands on bar 1 they should be retained until bar 8 when they will be released during the crossing back to own side of the set.

Book 4: Brinkie Braes
Book 7: The Top of Ben Lomond
Book 9: Mervyn's Reel

Quern progression for three couples

- 1-3 All three couples turn partner with the right hand.
- 4-6 All three couples dance six hands across in a right hand wheel halfway.
- 7-8 All three couples cross back to own side giving right hand in passing.

This should be danced as a continuous flowing movement as described for the two couple quern above.

Book 4: Anne Eltham's Fancy
Book 6: Miss Clementine Loughan
Book 8: Willie Brewed a Peck o'Maut

Reversed Quern progression for two couples

- 1-3 First and second couples turn partner with the left hand once round.
- 4-6 Left hands across in a wheel half way.
- 7-8 Cross left hand to own side of the set.

This should be danced as a continuous flowing movement in the middle of the set; dancers should not return to the side lines at the end of bar 3 or bar 6. After joining hands on bar 1 they should be retained until bar 8 when they will be released during the crossing back to own side of the set.

Book 11: Mol-a-deas

Reel Variations

Pass and Set Reel of Six

Three couple formation with a six bar pattern which is to be danced four times, 24 bars in total. To start with, second couple is in original places, whilst first and third couples form a line up and down the dance, first couple facing down, third couple facing up (e.g. after a right hand turn three quarters round).

Unless otherwise stated, dancers always pass right shoulder when changing places.

The pattern can be danced twice only to make it a halfway round.

- 1-2 First lady and third man set, whilst first and second men change places, second and third ladies also change places, second couple change places (in the middle) so that second lady faces first lady and second man faces third man.
- 3-4 First man and third lady set, whilst first and second ladies change places, second and third men also change places, first lady and third man pass by the left (in the middle) so that they face their own partners.
- 5-6 Second couple set, whilst first couple change places, third couple also change places, first man and third lady pass by the left (in the middle) so that third lady faces second lady and first man faces second man.
- 7-24 Repeat bars 1-6 three times, from new positions.

Book 15: Bonnie Toon of Edinburgh

Book 18: Miss Grant of Grant (halfway round)

Borrowing Mirror Reels of three

Four couple formation in a longwise set.

- 1-8 First and second couples dance the track of a reel of three on the sides through first, second and third positions; meanwhile, third and fourth couples also dance the track of a reel of three on the sides through second, third and fourth positions; to commence first and third couples dance down and out and second and fourth couples dance in and up; the reels interlace, so that first and fourth couples dance round each other in the centre as do second and third couples.

Book 22: Jim Bruce (6 bar version)

Half Reel and turn progression

Four couple formation in a longwise set. The top two couples form a line across the dance, first couple in the centre, men facing men, ladies facing ladies. Third and fourth couples do the same, with third couple in the centre.

- 1 All pass the person that they are facing by the right: i.e. first and second men pass by the right as do first and second ladies, third and fourth men and third and fourth ladies.
- 2-6 First and third couples cast clockwise halfway round the outside of the set to finish with first couple in fourth place and third couple in second place. Second and fourth couples turn with the left hand one and a half times, and on bar 6 dance out to own side of the set to finish with second couple in first place and fourth couple in third place.

Book 23: Lt. Col. Baillie of Leys

Crossing "Inveran" Reels

Three couple formation.

- 1-4 First couple cross below second couple to dance a half reel of three on the opposite side of the set; second couple also cross to opposite side on bars 3-4.
- 5-8 Third couple also cross down to second place on opposite side as first couple cross above second couple to dance a half reel of three on own side of the set. Second and third couples finish on opposite side.

Book 23: The Drum House

Set and turn Reel of Four

Two couple formation. First man and second lady start in own place, first lady and second man in the centre, facing own partner.

- 1-2 All pass own partner by the right shoulder, as they dance in first man and second lady join left hands and commence to turn.
- 3-4 First lady and second man set on the sides whilst first man and second lady continue to turn one and a half times with the left hand, to finish with first man facing second man and first lady facing second lady.
- 5-6 All pass by the right shoulder, as they dance in first lady and second man join left hands and commence to turn.
- 7-8 First man and second lady set on the sides whilst first lady and second man continue to turn one and a half times with the left hand, to finish facing their own partners.
- 9-16 Repeat bars 1-8 to return to the positions as at the beginning, retaining left hands first lady and second man join right hands with own partners.

Book 23: Miss Clementine Stewart of Garth's Jig

Progressive Reel of Six

Figure for 4 trios, centre man with two ladies. Two trios facing one another as in a 3 couple longwise set, a second double trio to their right - alas, we have two lines made of two trios facing one another. This figure requires 10 bars; the reel is danced along each line (having a "left" trio and a "right" trio), not with the opposite trio. Left trios of one line are always facing the right trio of the opposite line.

- 1-10 Both trios start individually: left trio men pass the lady on their left by the right shoulder and right trio men pass the lady on their right by the right shoulder. The other two ladies dance away from each other to start, as if dancing independent half reels of three. From here on, all 6 people work together as a 6 person reel. At the end, the two trios have exchanged positions; the left trio has moved to the right now and vice versa.

Whetherly Sheets No. 15: Give a little whistle

Wheeling Reel of Four

The original name of this figure is “Enlarged reel of four”. As the editors considered this to be non-descriptive, this figure was renamed for the re-publication.

Four couple formation in a longwise set. This generic description starts with all couples in original places. The eight dancers follow the track of an enlarged reel of four on the first diagonal, by giving right hands across in a wheel at the ends and left hands across in a wheel at the centre.

- 1-2 Second and first couples dance right hands across half way round, third and fourth couples do the same.
- 3-4 First man and fourth lady give left hands across to start the central counter rotating wheel. On each succeeding bar the following dancers join in the left hand wheel.
- 5-8 First man gives right hands across in the wheel at the foot of the set and fourth lady similarly joins the wheel at the top of the set. The other dancers continue to follow the same track.
- 9-10 First man and fourth lady again start giving left hands across in the centre, the other dancers still following.
- 11-16 First man and fourth lady dance out into their original right hand wheels. The wheels continue so that all dancers return to the positions in which they started the formation.

Whethery Sheets No. 45: The Niartreg Jig

Revolution Figures

Revolution

Four couple formation in a longwise set. All couples start from original places.

- 1-2 Second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel half way, retaining right hands they pick up first and fourth couples at the corners, with their left hands.
- 3-6 All dance right hands across in a wheel halfway to bring first and fourth couples to opposite ends of the set, on opposite sides, where second and third couples leave them.
- 7-8 Second and third couples dance right hands across in a wheel halfway to finish by joining left hands with the nearest corner (on opposite sides).

Book 23: Mr Morison of Bognie

Counter-Revolution

Four couple formation in a longwise set. All couples are in original places, first and fourth couple on opposite sides.

- 1-2 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel half way, retaining left hands they pick up first and fourth couples at the corners, with their right hands.
- 3-6 All dance left hands across in a wheel halfway to bring first and fourth couples to the opposite ends of the set, on their own sides, where second and third couples leave them.
- 7-8 Second and third couples dance left hands across in a wheel halfway to finish by joining right hands with the nearest corner (on own sides).

Book 23: Spirits of Old Pulteney

Revolve Figures

Revolve

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-2 First lady and second man turn three quarters with the right hand to finish on a diagonal line between their partners; they take their partner's right hands in their left hands.
- 3-6 The two couples dance clockwise three quarters round with four skip change steps, to finish with second lady in first place on own side, and first man in second place on own side;
- 7-8 Releasing their partners hands, first lady and second man turn three quarters with the right hand to finish on own sides, with first lady in second place and second man in first place.

Book 22: Brothers Three
Book 22: Dorraton Bridge
Book 22: The Teetotaller

Counter-revolve

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-2 First man and second lady turn three quarters with the left hand to finish on a diagonal line between their partners; they take their partner's left hands in their right hands.
- 3-6 The two couples dance anticlockwise three quarters round with four skip change steps, to finish with second man in first place on own side, and first lady in second place on own side.
- 7-8 Releasing their partners' hands, first man and second lady turn three quarters with the left hand to finish on own sides, with first man in second place and second lady in first place.

Book 22: Berry Picking

Shuffle Figures

Shuffle Right

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-2 First lady and second man change places giving right hand; at the same time, first man and second lady set to each other.
- 3-4 First lady casts up into first man's place, whilst second man casts down into second lady's place; at the same time, first man and second lady turn with the left hand to finish back-to-back facing own partners.

Book 15: Achnahennich
Book 15: Alan Maxwell's Farewell
Book 15: Aldridge's Hornpipe
Book 18: Miss Lyall
Book 19: Mr And Mrs Victor Jamieson
Book 19: Robert Byrd's Reel
Book 20: Shaggie Burn

Shuffle Left

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-2 First man and second lady change places giving left hand; at the same time first lady and second man set.
- 3-4 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.

Book 17: Harmonica
Book 17: The Jim Douglas
Book 18: Miss Maclachlan's March
Book 19: Miss Scales Hornpipe
Book 19: Robert Byrd's Reel

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.

Book 17: Kipper's Jig

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.

Book 17: Kipper's Jig

Splat Figures

Splat

Two couple formation.

- 1-2 First and second couples turn with the right hand half way, the ladies turning under the raised right arms to finish with first couple (facing up) back-to-back with second couple (facing down).
- 3-4 They pull their right shoulders back to dance right hands across in a wheel half way.

Book 15: Baillie Of Canna
Book 15: Bambooselum
Book 17: Hill House Jack Oozie
Book 18: Mains Of Dun
Book 18: Miss Graham Of Inchbrakie
Book 20: Torridon

Counter Splat

Two couple formation.

- 1-2 First and second couples turn with the left hand half way, the ladies turning under the raised left arms to finish with first couple (facing up) back-to-back with second couple (facing down).
- 3-4 They pull their left shoulders back to dance left hands across in a wheel half way.

Book 15: Cameron Got His Wife Again
Book 16: Fife And Forfar
Book 16: Four Leaf Clover
Book 18: Lindsay Ross

Splunge Figures

Splunge

Two couple formation. It starts with second couple in opposite places.

- 1-2 First man and second lady turn half way with the right hand to face out on the men's side, second lady turning under their raised right arms. Meanwhile first lady and second man do the same to face out on the ladies' side.
- 3-4 All continue to turn to their right and dance right hands across in a wheel half way.

Book 20: Willy Davie

Counter Splunge

Two couple formation. It starts with second couple in opposite places. This is the left hand version of "Splunge".

- 1-2 First man and second lady turn half way with the left hand to face out on the men's side, second lady turning under their raised left arms. Meanwhile first lady and second man do the same to face out on the ladies' side.
- 3-4 All continue to turn to their left and dance left hands across in a wheel half way.

Book 15: Callum Donaldson

Book 16: Dagg's Of Craighouse

Book 17: Hazeldean

Spurtle Figures

Square Spurtle

Four couple formation in a square set. First and third couples in the centre of the set, back-to-back with partner, first man and third lady facing second couple and first lady and third man facing fourth couple.

- 1-8 Second and fourth couples dance the track of reels of four across the set, they should endeavour to pass their opposite by the left shoulder by the end of bar 2 and bar 6; they finish by curving round to their right. Meanwhile first and third couples:
- 1-2 pass the person they are facing by the right shoulder;
 - 3-4 dance right hands across in a wheel half way;
 - 5-6 pass the person they are facing by the right shoulder;
 - 7-8 dance right hands across in a wheel half way, to finish by dancing out to their original places.

Book 23: Jill's Medley

Swap Figures

Swap Right

Two couple formation.

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

Book 15: Burton Jig

Book 17: Grant's Strathspey

Book 17: Hay's Reel

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.

Book 17: Geordie's Reel

Book 17: Grant's Strathspey

Book 17: Hay's Reel

Tournée Variations

Tournee 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.

Book 10: Caerlaverock Castle

Book 10: Lady Binning

Book 10: Lager Beer

Modified tournée

Two couple formation in a four couple longwise set, with third and fourth couple on opposite sides.

- 1 Second and third men dance in between second and third ladies and turn towards their partners to take a promenade hold. Meanwhile, the ladies dance in to take a promenade hold with their partners, forming a line in the centre of the set, all facing anticlockwise.
- 2-4 Dance the usual promenade movement to finish with the ladies back-to-back.
- 5-7 Both couples turn with the left hand to maintain the direction of travel.
- 8 Both couples continue turning to finish back-to-back in the centre of the set facing their corners; i.e. third man facing first lady, third lady facing first man, second man facing fourth lady and second lady facing fourth man.

Book 23: Graham Hamilton of Glenwood

Triangle Variations

Ruptured Triangle

Three couple formation. This generic description has first couple in second place, back-to-back in the centre of the set, both facing own side; second couple in first place.

- 1-2 All join nearer hands in triangle formation and set.
3-6 First lady dances out the ladies's side, casts off and dances up between third couple, whilst first man dances out the men's side, casts up and dances down between second couple, they then pass by the left to finish back-to-back in the centre of the set, first man facing down and first lady facing up. Meanwhile second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.
7-8 First man joins hands with second couple (who are in third place) and first lady joins hands with third couple (who are in second place) in triangle formation and all set.

Book 15: Barren Rocks of Aden
Book 15: Beau of Oakhill
Book 16: Dr Finlay
Book 17: I Ha'e Laid A Herrin In Salt
Book 18: Macgregor's March
Book 19: The Navvie
Book 19: No Churchman Am I
Book 19: Portsmouth
Book 19: Pottinger's Reel
Book 20: Snouts And Ears

Double Ruptured Triangle

Four couple formation in a longwise set, six bars. This generic description has all couples in original places with second and third couples being back-to-back in the centre of the set facing their own sidelines and having nearer hands joined.

- 1-2 Second and third couples join free hands with corners in triangle formation and all set.
5-6 Second couple cast up and lead down to second place own side, third couple cast down and lead up to third place own side. Meanwhile second and third couples dance half rights and lefts.

Book 18: Liverpool Hornpipe
Book 19: Queen Vic's Washing Day
Book 20: Tekeli

Twisted Triangles

Three couple formation. First and third couples are in original places, whilst second couple is in the centre of the set, back-to-back, the man facing the ladies' side, the lady facing the men's side.

- 1-2 All join hands in triangle formation and set.
3-4 First lady and second man turn with the left hand half way to change places; first man and second lady turn with the right hand half way to change places; third couple cross to the opposite side giving right hand.
5-6 All join hands in triangle formation and set.
7-8 First couple dance a petronella turn to second place own side; second and third couples cross giving right hand.

Book 16: A Faery Lullaby

Wheel Variations / Hands Across Variations

Dropout wheel

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-4 First and second couples dance left hands across in a wheel three quarters round until first couple are on the ladies' side and second couple are on the men's side: second man drops out of the wheel into first place on the men's side.
- 5-6 First couple and second lady dance left hands across in a wheel half way; second lady drops out of the wheel into first place on the ladies' side;
- 7-8 First couple turn three quarters with the left hand and finish in second place.

Book 21: Easthampstead Park

Snowball wheel

Two couple formation. Generic description with both couples in original places.

- 1-2 First couple turn three quarters with the right hand.
- 3-4 First couple and second man dance right hands across in a wheel half way, second man is now at first lady's place.
- 5-8 First and second couples dance right hands across in a wheel three quarters round to finish with first couple in second place and second couple in first place all on own sides.

Book 21: Easthampstead Park

Version History

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