

# **Ships in the Night**

32 S 3C

by J. Robert Burger

Bars

01-02 Advance and turn individually 1st and 2nd Couples advance diagonally (bar 1) and turn Right about on the spot (bar 1) then dance directly away from center (bar 2) as in Figure 1.

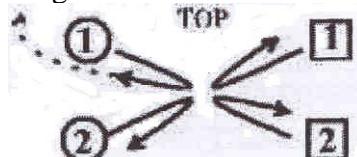


Fig 1 Advance and Turn Individually

03-06 1st and 2nd Couples cast R clockwise two places to opposite sides, as in Figure 2, to face each other at the end of bar 6.

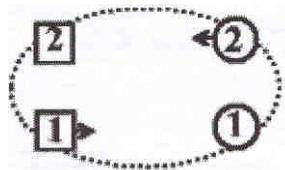


Fig 2 End of bar 6

07 -08 1st lady and 2nd man turn sharply to the R to change directions. 2nd and 1st Couples cross the set passing R shoulders (no hands). 1st Couple remain facing out at the end of bar 8 as in Figure 3.

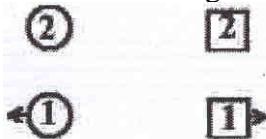


Fig 3 End of bar 8

09-16 Mirror Reels of Three 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Couples dance a mirror reel of 3 on the sides. 1st Couple dance out and up to begin as in Figure 4

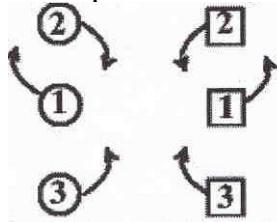


Fig 4 Start of the Reel

17-24 1st Couple dance down the middle and up again with 1st lady cross in front of 1st man on bars 23-24 to finish back-to-back in the center facing first corners.

25-32 Pass half round 1st Couple dance pass half round as in Figure 5 WHILE corners dance pass and turn.

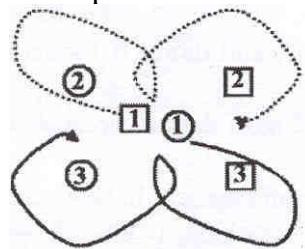


Fig 5 Path of Pass Half Round

Pass half round

"The pass half round starts from 2nd place in the center of the set with 1st lady dancing out between her corners, casting up around 2nd man and down the center to meet 1st man who has similarly danced out between his corners, casting down around 3rd lady and up to meet 1st lady (4 bars). Turning sharply away from each other, the 1st lady dances up around 2nd lady and casts down to place while 1st man dances down around 3rd man and cast up to place."

Repeat having passed a couple.

Notes:

- "Ships that pass in the night, and speak each other in passing, only a signal shown, and a distant voice in the darkness; So on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another, only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- This 3 Couple dance is intended to be danced in a wide four-couple set. If only three couples are available, 2nd man may finish through second place and then dance inside to the bottom while 3rd man dances outside and up to second place. Meanwhile 1st lady may dance down to third place as 3rd lady steps up to second place.
- Right about or sharp turn as an individual occurs in this dance. As feet close together, proper technique demands a modest plié and heel lift (no hop) to reverse direction of motion, keeping toe close to the floor at all times. Effectively, there is a slow pivot on the supporting foot.  
[bars 1, 29; ed]
- These 'ships in the night' have met, so it is suggested they dance fairly close in keeping with good technique, and glance at each other at least once when moving down and at least once when moving up. [bars 17-24; ed]

Suggested Music: "The Expert Dancer" on the CD *Campbells Birl*, track #02

<sup>1</sup> from Murray's Jig in *Memories of Fife*.