The Micmac Rotary

96-bar reel for four couples in a square set

Figure 1

- 1-8 1st and 3rd couples, with nearer hands joined, set to opposites and dance "La Baratte" with opposites to change sides. Finish facing out, in promenade hold with partners.
- 9-12 2nd and 4th couples, in promenade hold, advance and retire
 WHILE 3rd and 1st couples dance anticlockwise around the side couples
 and into the middle, passing the other couple left shoulder, to face the side couples.
 (1st couple face 4th couple and 3rd couple face 2nd couple)
- 13-16 1st and 4th couples, in promenade hold, dance round each other by the right to return to original places. 3rd and 2nd couples, similarly, dance round each other.
- 17-32 Repeat bars 1-16 with 2nd and 4th couples starting.

Figure 2

- 1-8 1st woman and 2nd man also 3rd woman and 4th man, giving right hands, half turn and dance right hands across half way.
 1st and 3rd women, giving right hands, turn their own corners one and one-half times to place.
- 9-16 2nd and 4th women repeat bars 1-8.
- 17-24 All set to partners, petronella turn (women are now back to back) and set twice.

 On the second setting, the women turn right about to form a tight circle

 WHILE their partners dance in behind them and place hands on their hips.
- Women circle four hands round to left (small steps) with partners behind them and then all couples, giving right hands, turn partners back to places.

Figure 3

- 1-8 All circle eight hands round and back.
- 9-16 Women dance right hands across and, giving left hands, turn partners one and one-half times to bring the men into the middle.
- 17-24 Men dance right hands across and, giving left hands, turn partners into promenade hold facing anticlockwise.
- 25-32 All promenade around the square.

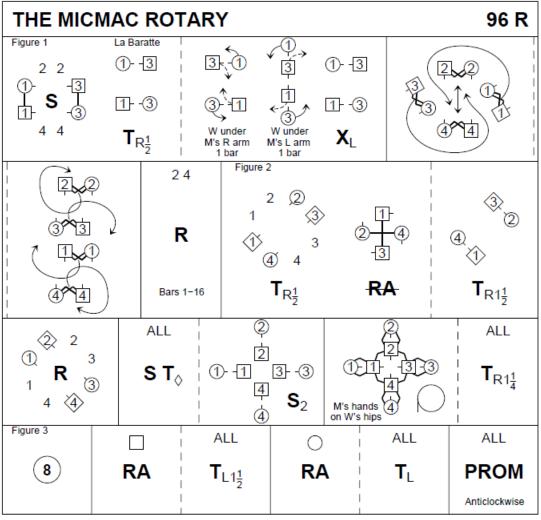
Devised by John Drewry (1982) for the dancers of Nova Scotia. Previously published in *The Brodie Book*. Reprinted with permission from TAC, who hold the copyright for all Drewry dances.

Tune: "Fancy Hornpipe" Angus Fitchett S. D. Collection (Mozart Allan).

Note: The Micmac Rotary was the bane of motorists in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. It was a large traffic roundabout with a lake in the middle and it caused chaos during the rush hour. It has now been replaced by a conventional junction.

The Micmacs (Mi'kmaq) are the original indigenous inhabitants of Nova Scotia.

"The dance was very popular when I taught it in Paris in 1989 and repeat performances were requested several times during the weekekend. The word "micmac" is used in French to mean foul play or complete chaos."



John Drewry, 1982, Brodie Book

4C/4C square set.