

The Rug Beater

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

- 1-8 1st couple dance down the middle for 4 and up for 4,
 ending at the top in the middle of the set, facing up.
 (2nd couple step up on bars 3-4 and face down)
- 9-10 1st man turns 2nd man by the left hand
WHILE 1st woman turns 2nd woman by the right hand
- 11-12 1st man turns 3rd man by the right hand,
WHILE 1st woman turns 3rd woman by the left hand
 to finish in second place on own sides.
- 13-16 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples advance for 2 and retire for 2.
- 17-24 All three couples set and cross, giving right hands.
 All three couples chase halfway round clockwise. Finish in order 3, 1, 2.
- 25-32 All three couples set and cross, giving left hands.
 All three couples chase halfway round anticlockwise. Finish in order 2, 1, 3.
- Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Sue Kashanski of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia (April 2007)

The link between the name and the actual dance is the pattern that is described on the floor when the first 12 bars are danced. It is the shape of an old-fashioned wood-and-reed rug beater, with its long handle and lobed head. The rest is the swaying of the rug on the line, the beating of the rug, and the ensuing swirling dust.

Recommended music: "The Rug Beater" on the CD *Spark O' Water*,
Music for Scottish Country Dancing by Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone.

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