

LADY MARY HAY'S REEL

A 4 Couple Reel in a longwise set.

The active couples are the first and fourth.

1-4 First man and fourth lady facing on the diagonal advance and retire.

5-8 First man and fourth lady set to each other, first man casts off into second place, and fourth lady casts up into third place. Second mans steps up and third lady down.

meanwhile

First lady and fourth man facing on the diagonal advance and retire.

9-12 First man and fourth lady turn slightly over once round with the right hand. First man finishes ready to cut a right reel across with the second couple above beginning by giving right shoulder to second woman, and similarly the fourth woman with the third couple below.

meanwhile

First lady sets to fourth man and casts off into second place and fourth man sets to first lady and casts up into third place. Second lady steps up and third man steps down.

13-16 First man dances a half reel of three across with the second couple giving right shoulder to second woman to begin. Similarly fourth lady with the third couple, beginning by giving right shoulder to third man.

meanwhile

First lady and fourth man turn slightly over once round with the LEFT hand. First finishes behind her partner ready to continue the reel in tandem (no swapping) with the second couple, and similarly the fourth man, his partner and the third couple below.

17-24 In tandem (no swapping) first couple dances a reel with the second couple and similarly the fourth couple with the third couple. (This will continue the reel begun by their partners.)

25-28 First man and fourth lady turn one and a quarter times (approximately) with the left hands to finish with first man in third place, and fourth lady in second place.

meanwhile

First lady and fourth man continue the reel.

28-32 First lady and fourth man turn right hand to finish opposite their partners.

Repeat from new positions.

The second and third couples dance two continuous reels.

This is a less mind-bending version of an idea used in the next dance. Recommended music is "Lady Mary Hay's Scot's Measure" played AABB or ABAB at reel tempo. This tune is by Nathaniel Gow. It can be found in tune 2 of "The Mantua Makers" in the recording of "Scottish Dance Masters" by Ron Gonella and George MacIlwham. Otherwise, use a reel with strong four bar phrases, and preferably a measure. This dance was inspired by this tune used in a medley set on track 5 of the CD "Glenelg" by Elke Baker.