

Pentamime

A 32 bar jig for five couples inspired by Best Set in the Hall. It features the “pantomime” (“behind you!”) figure from that dance but in a five couple set hence the name “Pentamime”. The 1st and 3rd couples are the active couples.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st and 3rd couples set and cast one place with 2nd and 4th couples stepping up. 1st and 3rd couples end in the centre, right shoulder to partner, facing their 2nd corners.
- 5-8 1st and 3rd couples dance half right shoulder diagonal reels of four with their 2nd corners ending by passing partners left shoulder to be back to back facing their 3rd corner positions.
- 9-16 1st and 3rd couples dance Set to Corners and Cast Away (the “Best Set in the Hall” figure) on the 3rd corner diagonal to end facing 4th corner positions:
- 1st and 3rd couples set and cast away, pulling right shoulder back, to the corner position behind them while the corners set and, starting to their left, curve in right to face the positions they just left.
 - Corners (in the centre) set and cast away to the corner position behind them while the 1s and 3s set and curve in to twirl away from each other and face their 4th corner positions.
- 2nd man and 5th woman (who started bar 9 in 1st man’s and 5th woman’s positions) end facing along the 2nd corner diagonal to take part in the next figure.
- 17-24 1st and 3rd couples repeat bars 9-16 on the 4th corner diagonal. 1st and 3rd couples end sweeping past each other right shoulder to end on their own side, all men facing up, all women facing down in the order 5,1,4,3,2.
- 25-30 All chase clockwise half way round to the opposite side in the order 2,3,4,1,5.
- 31-32 2nd, 3rd and 4th couples (in the top three places) cross giving right hands while 1st and 5th couples (in the bottom two places) dance half right hands across. The final progressed positions are 2,3,4,5,1.

Music

- Ideally a 5 times through version of the original Best Set in the Hall track from the CD for RSCDS book 46 (tunes Miss Barbara Hay's Favourite, Miss Dickson's Reel).
- Alternative 5x32 jig recording: Airie Bennan from Special Requests 5 (Colin Dewar).