

A note on terminology: The Round has long regarded the terms “Men” and “Women” as denoting role-names for positions in the dance and not anything to do with actual people dancing in those positions but to make this explicit most dances will be called using the terms “Lark” and “Robin”. If you and your partner face up at the start of the dance then the person on the Left is the Lark, and the one on the Right the Robin.

Childgrove longways (frequently danced improper)

Side with partner; back to back partner.
Side with neighbour; back to back neighbour.
Two hand turn neighbour once and a half; two hand turn partner once.
The ones dance a full figure eight up through the twos.

The Geud Man of Ballangigh longways

Ones lead down between twos and cast home; larks lead through robins and cast back. Twos lead up and cast; robins lead through larks and cast back.
First lark set and turn single to second robin; first robin set and turn single to second lark.
Circle four half, falling back; set forward and cross over with partner into progressed place.

Nonesuch four couple longways

Up a double and back; twice. Set and turn single; twice.
Longways set figure:
First couple balance back and meet, take two hands and slip down just below the next couple and turn down and round about 120° to face neighbour on the diagonal; push neighbour out on that diagonal, come forward with neighbour to face partner in progressed places; fall back and come forward and then two-hand turn partner.
The first couple then continue with the next couple as though dancing a longways dance; other couples joining in as the first couple reach them – so the original second couple wait out one turn and then join as ones. This continues until the original first couple gets back to top place (the other couples will be in a shuffled order.)
All cross over with partner passing left, and turn single, cross back passing right and turn single.
First lark step in to middle of the set, facing down, his partner step in, facing up; second couple, third, fourth.
All arm right; arm left.
All slip left four steps (NB: a different direction from your partner), slip right eight slips, and four left back to partner.
All step out back to the longways set in the same order you stepped in.
Progressive grand chain: top couple starting right, and bringing dancers in as you meet them; everyone dropping out when they complete the circuit, the dance finishing as the bottom couple do their final left turn to place.

The Hole in the Wall longways triple time

Ones cast down and lead back up to place.
Twos cast up and lead back to place.
First corners cross, second corners cross; circle four half way and ones cast as the twos lead up.

The Lover’s Knot longways improper

1990 *Jim Kitch*
“Mad Robin” i.e. the track of back to back neighbour, but keep facing your partner whilst shuffling sideways; half clockwise poussette.
Circle left three quarters; two hand turn partner (on the side) once and a half.
Larks pass left to start (almost) full hey for four across, ending flowing into a right shoulder round (gypsy) partner once and a half-ish, leading in to larks start a star with partners sort-of continuing the gypsy to join the star behind their partner; the star goes round a bit over half way until everyone is in progressed place.

Sapphire Sea longways

2015, *tune by Amelia Mason and Emily Troll, dance by Christine Robb.*
Circle left; first corners turn right. Second corners turn left; ones cast down into the middle of a line of four while the twos lead up and cast onto the ends.
All face second robin and ones lead a Dolphin hey, ending back in that line. The line leads up a double and falls back; and twos gate the ones round into progressed places.

Parson’s Farewell couple facing couple

Lead in (no hands), slip left; fall back, slip right.
Larks rise, robins rise, all nod (opposite, diagonal, partner, opposite); two hand turn opposite. Robins rise, larks rise, all nod; turn opposite.
Lead in one hand, lead opposite out; lead back, fall back with partner,
Open larks’ chain. Open robins’ chain.
Slip in two hands with partner, out with opposite; back, fall back with partner.
Right hand turn partner, larks cross wide (right) (“right hand turn once and a quarter”); face partner: 3 changes but cheat with a two hand turn half on last change. Left turn partner, robins cross left; face partner: 3 changes home.

Warning: this dance is fast and confusing. The above is merely a reminder. Don’t think for a moment that you will learn it from this crib.

In the second figure (chains) people may try to sell you a dummy and offer the wrong hand. The Playford original text says something like “offer right, but give left” so this is allowed (encouraged, even, so long as you don’t think the other dancer will fall for it).

Jenny Pluck Pears 3 couple round

(couples number clockwise)

Hands-6, 8 slips left; set and turn single. Slip back; set and turn single.

1st lark puts partner in by right hand, then 2nd lark the same, then 3rd; all honour (robins stand back to back in centre).

Larks skip round clockwise, then back anticlockwise. larks (in turn) take partners out by left hand; all honour.

Side; set and turn single. Repeat.

Robins put partners in by left hand; all honour.

Robins skip round larks clockwise, then back anticlockwise. Take larks out right hand; all honour.

Arm R; set and turn single. Arm L; set and turn single.

Larks put robins in etc. as in first part.

Don't worry too much about which hand to use putting partner in/out. The original doesn't say, and Cecil Sharp decreed that when the one being moved faces their partner they should be led by the leading shoulder rather than be pushed by the trailing one.

Jack's Maggot longways

First lark cross to go between opposite dancers, facing down to pass right starting a hey for three, ending with all back in home places.

First robin the same, but passing left to start the hey.

Star right; star left

First corners cross, second corners cross; circle four half (all back home), and ones cast to progress.

Emma's Waltz four couple longways

2009, tune by Brian Stone, dance by Colin Hume written for Emma Darby (now Wooders), Round Chairman 2003-4.

In fours, first corners give right hands, balance forward and back; box the gnat, and keep hold while the others join in. Right-hand star.

Second corners the same left (swat the flea). Left-hand star into...

All eight single file anti-clockwise half-way, to finish proper. Join hands in lines, set right and left; turn single.

Middles cross and cast to the nearer ends (ends move in on end of phrase); all two hand turn partner.

End couples half turn by the right and those facing in (i.e. in second long corner places, top robin and bottom lark) zig-zag to the middle by changing left on the left diagonal; right across, and left on the left diagonal (with each other).

Their partners do the same move: right across, left on the left diagonal; right across, left on the left diagonal (with each other) so everyone is reunited with their partner.

The Indian Queen longways

First corners set and turn single; and two hand turn.

Second corners the same.

Star right; star left

All back to back partner; three changes of a circular hey to progress.

Grimstock 3 couple longways

Up a double and back; set and turn single. Repeat.

Mirror hey, ones going between twos to start.

Side; set and turn single. Repeat.

Dip and dive, twos facing up to start.

Arm right; set and turn single. Arm left; set and turn single.

Cross hey variation: twos and threes do exactly the same as in the mirror hey of the first figure but the ones cross to the other side as they lead in from the top, and cross back to their own side as they lead in from the bottom.

Step Stately 3 couple longways

Introduction: Lead up a double and slip across to change places with your partner; all face out, join hands and ones draw their line down and round to meet in a line of six facing up. The line leads up a double and back; breaks in the middle and ones draw their line home (robin's line going in front). Repeat.

Figure 1 (duple minor): First couple lead up, turn and lead back; circle four half way and first corners cross. robins cross up and stand behind that lark; larks give right and chain to partner and turn left into progressed places. Each couple leads the figure twice so all end home.

Figure 2 (triple minor); Top couple cross, cast and cross (quickly); side lines fall back and come forward and end couples cross, middle couple lead back up to top place. Invert the set: tops cast as the rest follow and the new top two couples circle half way to get proper while the original top couple arm right at the bottom. Repeat this figure led by each couple in turn.

Finale: Repeat the introductory figure once.

Optional extras: In the second figure the ends come forward and cross: it makes sense for the twos (at the top) to cross and cast down a place as ones are leading back up to the top, and the threes can cast too (to "fourth place") so as not to feel left out. In the finale instead of the line of six splitting and going home it can lead up and step and honour the presence.

Warning: this dance is confusing. The above is merely a reminder. Don't imagine that you can learn it from this crib.

The Black Nag

3 couple longways

Up a double and back; twice.

Ones slip up 4, twos, threes, all turn single. Threes slip down, twos, ones, all turn single..

Side twice.

First long corners cross, passing back to back, right shoulders leading, other corners, middles, all turn single. First corners slip across back home, second corners, middles, all turn single.

Arm right; arm left.

Larks skip a straight hey; robins hey, all turning single on last four beats.

Sun Assembly

longways

1757, interpreted by Ken Sheffield. From Two Barns 1

Circle left half way and fall back on the sides; twos gate the ones up round them. One half figure eight up through the twos, and the twos cross over as soon as the ones are out of the way; all set and turn single..

With the next couple star right; with the original couple star left. Ones lead down through their next couple and cast back up to progressed place; all two hand turn partner.

The Fandango

3 couple longways

First couple right hand turn and wide cast to middle place; left hand turn and wide cast to the bottom.

All slipped circle left; and right.

Ones lead up to the top, acknowledge each other, cast to middle place, and, if time, cloverleaf turn single down.

Two-hand turn first corner about three-quarters, ones turn each other about once and a quarter, two hand turn second corner about half-way and turn each other about half to own side then continue turning (faster) some number of times into...

Lark up / robin down for a full figure eight round that end couple. Change ends, and ones repeat the figure eight except the ends join in to make it heys for three on the ends. On the end of the phrase the ones meet and lead to bottom place as the threes magically end their hey in middle place.

Newcastle

square set

All go in to the middle and back; set to partner, set to corner. Repeat.

Right hand turn partner, larks star left in the middle while robins skip rapidly round outside. Left turn partner, robins star right while larks skip round.

Side with partner, step and honour and pass left to meet someone on the corner. Side with them, step and honour and pass by to reform the square set.

Original heads (now in side places) lead in to meet, turn and lead back out making arches. As the arches lead out the original sides cast back to side places, briefly meet original partner, lead in under the arch and fall back into head places. Repeat, led by original sides leading in and original heads going under the arches.

Arm right current partner, arm left once and a half to meet someone on the corner. Arm right, arm left once and a half (*probably into side lines*).

The next move is head couples face partner and fall back a lot while side couples face across and fall back a little to make side lines. Usually people cheat and end the arm left in side lines with the heads having already fallen back a bit and the sides having snuck forward a bit to give themselves a decent distance to fall back.

Fall back into side lines, the line comes forward; all turn single and all cross over the set (heads just changing with their partner, sides going a long way) (*and as before magically form head lines with the ends and middles swapped from the side lines*).

Fall back into head lines, come forward, turn single and pass through up and down into original positions.

Juice of Barley

longways

All back to back partner; all two hand turn partner.

Larks half figure eight through robins (first lark going first); all clap, and circle four once round.

Robins half figure eight through larks (first robin going first); all clap, and circle four once round.

Never Love Thee More

longways

Introduction: Step and honour presence, step and honour partner. Up a double and back; twice.

Figure: Back to back partner right; and left.

Ones full figure eight down through twos.

Circle left half way, fall back; cross over with partner and a sweeping turn in for

Star right; star left.

Finale: Up a double and back; twice. Step and honour partner, step and honour presence.

Sellenger's Round

circle

Circle left; circle right.

Chorus: Set in two singles; fall back a double. Set and turn single to partner. Repeat.

In a double and back; repeat. Chorus

Partners side twice. Chorus.

Partners arm right; and left. Chorus.

Circle left; and right. Chorus.