Covalence
32 bar strathspey for four couples
Tim Conrow

Covalence is a process whereby an electron is shared by two atoms, causing them to bind together. In the two featured double reels, dancers are exchanged, effectively uniting both into a single, larger reel.

Bars
1 - 2   All couples set on the sidelines.
3 - 4   Couples 1 and 2, and couples 3 and 4 right hands across half way.
5 - 8   Couples 2 and 1 and couples 4 and 3 double half figures of eight, couples 2 and 4 begin by crossing down.

Couples are now in the order 2, 1, 4 and 3.

9 - 16   Mirror cross-over reels of 4, ladies giving left shoulder (see figure)

Couples are in the same order, everyone now on opposite sides.

Note: Each dancer will swap reels with his/her partner, the cross-over occurring as each couple coincides in the center of the set on even bars, while the gentleman is giving left shoulder and the lady right in his/her own reel. Couples will be moving up the set, and will cross in the order 3, 4, 2 and 1, ladies passing in front of the gentlemen.

17 - 20   Couples 2, 1 and 4, mirror half reels of 3 on the side, couple 1 going out and up.
21 - 22   Couples 4 and 1 and couples 2 and 3, change on the side, men giving left hand, women giving right hand, finishing facing up and down in the middle of the set.
23 - 24   Couples 1 and 4 and couples 3 and 2 set facing up and down.

Couples are now in the order 1, 4, 3 and 2, everyone still on opposite sides.

24 - 32   Double right shoulder cross-over reels of 4 on the side. Couples finish in the order 2, 3, 4 and 1.

Note: Each dancer will swap reels, but you will NOT cross with your partner. Cross-over occurs as dancers from opposing reels coincide in the center of the set on even bars, while giving left shoulder in his/her own reel; lady 2 with gentleman 1 on bar 2, lady 3 with gentleman 4 on bar 4, lady 1 with gentleman 2 on bar 6 and lady 4 with gentleman 3 on bar 8. In crossing, pass right shoulder and dance quickly 3/4 round each other, leaving each dancer to join the flow of their new reel, about to give right shoulder.