

Draft dances for
The Unchained Link
by Terry Glasspool

The Norah Link

A 32 bar reel for 4 couples.

In brief: All set, then odd women and even men cast into a ½ reel of four up and down; Reels of four across the dance; Set and link for four into right hands across; Unwind and chase into eight hands round.

1- 2 All set, with hands joined on the sides.

3- 4 1W & 3W cast off and dance into the center, facing up, *while* 2M & 4M cast up and dance into the center, facing down.

☞ The cast is fast and should be anticipated. 1W and 4M pass LS to end facing 2M and 3W respectively. Non-casting dancers do not step up or down.

5- 8 2M 1W 4M 3W dance a ½ reel of 4 up and down the middle of dance, finishing in the center facing an empty position on own sides.

☞ The dancers in the center are facing the position where they will end the next reel. 1W and 3W will have changed places, as will 2M and 4M.

9-16 All dance reels of four across the dance. 3W & 2W, also 1M & 4M, pass RS to begin at the top. 1W & 4W also 3M & 2M, pass RS to begin at the bottom.

On bar 16, 3W 4M, also 1W 2M, pass RS to finish on own sides. The dancers who did not cast on bars 3 - 4 finish the reel by looping, or "casting," into original places.

☞ The order is now 3 2 1 4 on the women's side and 1 4 3 2 on the men's side.

17-20 The four men, also the four women, set and dance a four couple variation of the link for two:

The two center dancers in each line change places with a link for two (4M & 1W finish facing out) and join RH.

The end dancers in each line follow the dancer next to them:

1M dances down the middle,
2M casts up,
3W casts off, and
4W dances up the middle.

The end dancers meet by joining RH across the side line, ready to flow into RHA, the four men on their side of the dance and the women on their own side.

☞ I hate to say this but, as a learning aid, it really helps to have 2M and 3W raise left hands as they enter the star.

21-24 The four men, also the four women, dance right hands across.

2M finishes on the "outside" facing up.
3W finishes on the "outside" facing down.

25-28 2M & 3W lead the dancers out of the hands across into a CW chase around the dance. The stars should "unwind" with dancers following and maintaining the order of the stars.

29-32 Eight hands round to the left, finishing on own sides, facing partner.

☞ The final order is 2 4 1 3.

Repeat from new positions.

For Norah Link, of Montreal, QC.

Suggested recording: "Bruce & Margaret Urquhart" on Magic Medicine by Sandy Nixon.