

Draft dances for
Four on the Floor
by Terry Glasspool

This One's Four Isobel

A 32 bar strathspey for 4 dancers.

This dance begins with four dancers arranged as for a two couple set, i.e. two dancers facing two dancers across the set. It is, however, a dance for four dancers, not two couples: each dancer will cycle through each of the four positions in turn. The directions, up and down and across the dance, are the same as for a normal longwise set. The dancers are numbered clockwise from "first man's" position. #2 and #3 have right shoulders toward the music.

In brief: ½ figure of eight, ½ rights and lefts;
set and link for two into a ½ reel of four;
the Iso-birl;
set, turn, cloverleaf cast and set.

1- 4 #1 and #4, with #4 passing in front of #1 (this will be a near hand lead when the dance repeats), dance a half figure of eight between and around #2 and #3 to finish having changed places and facing each other up and down the dance. On bar 1, #2 and #3 step away from each other and turn to face each other.

5- 8 All dance ½ rights and lefts. Begin by giving right hands on the side of the dance and finish the polite turn in lines of two, #1 & #3 facing down, #4 & #2 facing up, near hands joined.

9-12 All set and link for two. The link does not finish, instead the groups of two dancers continue the clockwise motion of the link until they face each other up and down the dance, in a line of four, in the order #1, #3, #4, #2.

13-16 All flow into a half reel of four up and down the dance, finishing in the order #2, #4, #3, #1.

17-18 All set advancing to change places at the ends of the line of four.

19-20 #2 & #1, facing each other in the center, turn ¾ with both hands then both pull right shoulders back to finish back to back while #4 and #3, facing out at the ends, dance to their own right, traveling CW ¼ of the way around the turning dancers.

☞ All finish in a line of four across the dance: #4 (on the "women's side") is facing #1 who is back to back with #2 who is facing #3.

21-24 From the new positions and orientation, all repeat bars 17-20 (set advancing then turn ¾ in the middle or chase ¼ around the outside), returning to their positions at the beginning of bar 17.

25-28 All set (without advancing) and turn ¾ with both hands to finish in lines of two facing away from the other pair: #4 & #2 are at the top facing up, #1 & #3 at the bottom facing down.

29-32 All, dancing forward and separating, cast away from the lines facing up and down to form new lines of two facing across the dance. All set.

☞ The final order, counting clockwise from "first man's" position, is #2, #4, #1, #3.

Repeat from new positions, three times.

For Isobel Jackson, of "Argyll," New Jersey.

Suggested recording: "Mary Hamilton" from The Bobby Brown Collection CD or The Island Fling LP.

These dance descriptions are subject to change and/or correction.