

# Parallelogram

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a longwise set. The dance starts with two chords: on the second chord 2nd and 4th couples cross over to opposite sides.

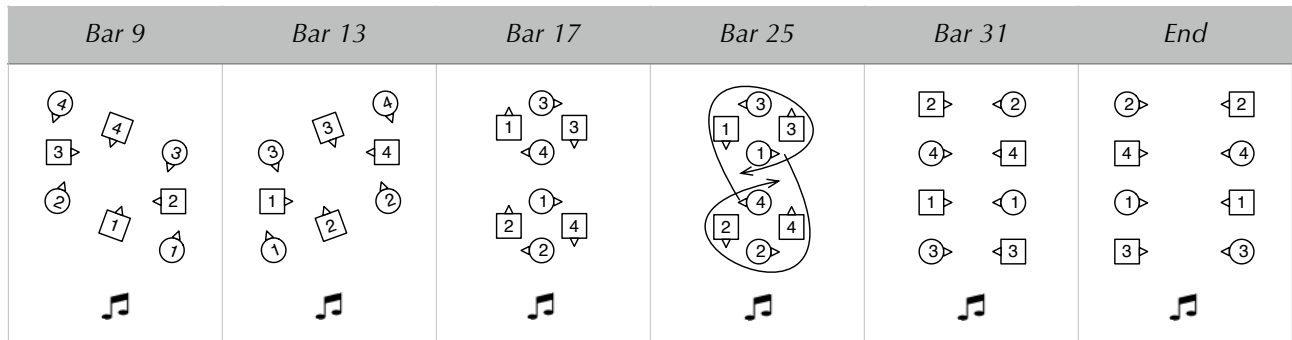
## *Bars Description*

- 1-2 1st and 4th couples dance in and towards the centre, briefly taking nearer hands with their partner. 1st and 4th women end facing out between 2nd and 3rd couples on their original side. 1st and 4th men face each other..
- 3-6 1st and 4th women dance out and cast back to original places, then set advancing to the centre line. Meanwhile 1st and 4th men turn once round with the right hand, dance out between 2nd and 3rd couples and cast back to original places.
- 7-8 1st and 4th couples turn with both hands, opening out to end in shallow diagonal lines with 1st and 4th women ready to take nearer hands with 2nd and 3rd men.
- 9-10 Set and link in a parallelogram. 1st couple with 2nd man, also 4th couple with 3rd man, take nearer hands and set in facing diagonal lines of three. Meanwhile 2nd and 3rd women set solo facing each other but setting parallel to the sidelines.
- 11-12 Then 2nd and 3rd men dance across to the opposite sides. The others all pull back right shoulder and cast: 1st and 4th men to the opposite side, 1st and 4th women to 2nd and 3rd places on their original side. 2nd and 3rd women end in the centre of new shallow diagonal lines across between 1st and 2nd men and 3rd and 4th men respectively.
- 13-14 2nd couple with 1st man, also 3rd couple with 4th man, take nearer hands and set in facing diagonal lines of three. Meanwhile 1st and 4th women set solo on the sides.
- 15-16 1st and 4th men dance towards each other and end left shoulder to each other on the centre line. The others pull back right shoulder and cast. The women end on the sidelines, 4th and 2nd women between 1st and 2nd places, 3rd and 1st women between 3rd and 4th places. 2nd and 3rd men end on the centre line in 1st and 4th places.
- 17-24 2nd couple with 4th woman and 1st man, also 4th man and 1st woman with 3rd couple, dance right hands across. 1st and 4th men pass right shoulder to the other half of the set and all dance left hands across. The men end back on the centre line.
- 25-30 4th man followed by 4th woman, 2nd man and 2nd woman, also 1st man followed by 1st woman, 3rd man and 3rd women, dance a four couple snake pass. All pass right shoulder and chase round to the other half of the set with 4th and 1st men crossing over again. All end opposite their partner in the order 3,1,4,2 with 3rd and 4th couples on opposite sides.
- 31-32 All cross over giving right hands. The final order is 3,1,4,2 with 1st and 2nd couples on opposite sides.

## **Music**

- Suggested tune: Strong Tea (Angus Fitchet).
- Suitable recording: Silverdale Strathspey (Neil Barron: Third Sheaf Collection).

## Diagrams (music at the bottom)



## Notes

- The idea of a set and link figure on the diagonal came from Kynoch of Bucksburn by John Drewry which has it just for two couples.
- At the time I wrote this dance I was not consciously aware of examples of the snake pass with more than three couples. But there are several. Adrian Conrad had both four and five couple versions, under the name Spiral Exchange, in his dances The Heights of Rechberg and The Sisters of Kintail.