

The Buchan Eightsome Reel

(Scotland)

This is a 40-bar reel for four couples danced in a square set and was published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1961. Each cpl begins facing the ctr of the square, W to R of M. The cpls are numbered clockwise around the square, beginning with the cpl at the top (facing down the hall). The dance begins with Part A; Part B is then danced 8 times, once for each person to be active; Part A is then repeated to conclude the dance.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Dances frae the North, Vol 3

2/4 meter

Formation: 4 cpls in a square, which is numbered CW (2 to the L of 1).

Steps: Reeltime Setting Step (8 bars = 16 counts): When dancing solo in the middle of the circle in Part B, one may simply use 8 Pas de Basque. Alternatively, one may use any movements that fit the music. Here are two fairly easy setting steps, although there are may more.

Balance and Pas de Basque: With wt on L ft, prepare by extending R ft diag R in front, then spring onto R ft, displacing L ft diag L to rear (ct 1); spring onto L ft, displacing R ft diag R to the front (ct 2); execute a Pas de Basque on the R ft finishing with L ft diag L in front (cts 3, &, 4). Repeat with opp ftwk (cts 5, 6, 7, &, 8); Repeat from beginning (cts 9-16).

Pas de Basque and Spring Points: Execute a Pas de Baasque on the R ft (cts 1, &, 2); spring onto L ft pointing R ft to the front (ct 3); spring onto R ft pointing L ft to the front (ct 4). Repeat with opp ftwk (cts 5, 6, 7, &, 8). Execute 2 Pas de Basque, R ft (cts 9, &, 10) and L ft (cts 11, &, 12); execute 4 spring points, pointing L ft (ct 13); R ft (ct 14); L ft (ct 15); R ft (ct 16).

Bars

Pattern

Chord INTRODUCTION. Bow or curtsey to partner.

PART A

- 1-8 All 4 cpls circle eight hands round and back. (8 Slip Steps to the L, 8 Slip Steps to the R.)
- 9-16 All face ptrs and dance a Grand Chain halfway around the square. (Begin with R hands to ptr and use 2 Skip Change of Step for each person passed.)
- 17-24 All 4 W, joining nearer hands with ptr, wheel R hands across once around. (8 Skip Change of Step.)
- 25-32 All face ptrs and dance a Grand Chain back to original places. (Again begin with R hands to ptr and use 2 Skip Change of Step for each person passed.)
- 33-40 All 4 M, joining nearer hands with ptr, wheel L hands across once around. (8 Skip Change of Step.)

The Buchan Eightsome Reel—continued

PART B

- 1-8 1st W dances a Reeltime Setting Step in the ctr as the others circle seven hands round to the L and back.
- 9-16 1st W sets to ptr (1st M) with 2 Pas de Basque and turns him with 2 Skip Change of Step once round with the R arm (elbow grip); she then sets to opposite M (3rd M) and turns him with the L arm.
- 17-24 1st W sets to M originally on her R (4th M) and turn him with the L arm; she then sets to remaining M (2nd M) and turns him with the R arm.
- 25-32 1st W dances a reel of Three with her ptr and opposite M (1st and 3rd M), giving R shldr to 1st M to begin. (8 Skip Change of Step.)
- 33-40 1st W dances a Reel of Three with the other two M (2nd and 4th M), giving L shldr to 4th M to begin.

Part B is repeated with 2nd W active, then with 3rd W, and with 4th W; it is then repeated for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th M. Finally, Part A is repeated to conclude the dance with all in original places.

Chord All bow and curtsy to ptr.

Presented by Robert McOwen