

Research Committee: Mildred
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THE BRIDGE OF ATHLONE (*Droíthead Atha-Luaín*)

(Irish Reel)

Another of the Irish reels taught to us by Una Kennedy of Ireland.

MUSIC: Record: Folkraft F 1068 A "Rakes of Mallow"
Columbia 33505 F; Celtic 1008; Imperial 1041A;
Rex 15001; or other reels

FORMATION: Six couples arranged in longways formation.

STEPS: Side step (sevens and threes) Promenade. (See Chart of Basic Steps for Irish Dancing) October 1951 *Let's Dance!*

MUSIC 2/4	PATTERN
Measures	I. <i>HEADS DOWN CENTER AND BACK</i>
1-4	With R hands joined at shoulder height (W's hand on top), elbows bent, head couple dances down center of the set with one seven and two threes.
5-8	Head couple returns up center of set to place with one seven and two threes.
	II. <i>HEADS CAST OFF, FORM A BRIDGE</i>
9-24	Using Irish promenade step, head couple casts off, M following head M to L, and W following head W to R. Head couple meets at ft to form a bridge by joining both hands high as they face each other. The other couples meet and joining inside hands at shoulder height they all pass under the bridge formed by first couple and as the second couple moves fwd to the head position, all of the other couples follow in due order. (First couple is now at the ft.)
	III. <i>UNDER THE BRIDGE</i>
25-28	All couples, except No. 1, join both hands (at head height) to form long bridge. While No. 1 W trails fwd under the bridge to the top of the set with four promenade steps, No. 1 M dances up the outside of the set behind the M's line, with four promenade steps.
29-32	With four promenade steps No. 1 W returns to the ft traveling down the outside behind the W's line, while No. 1 M returns to the ft traveling under the bridge. First couple is now at the ft of the st, second couple now becomes head couple, and dance is repeated. Repeat dance till end of music or until all couples have acted as head couple.