

JOHN MCALPIN

## A Scottish Country Dance.

MUSIC: Record "The Edinburgh Castle Reel" TAC Sound. TAC 004

FORMATION: Four couples in contra lines. STRATHSPEY STEP is used throughout the dance. Note that fourth couple stands still for first round.

PART 1: Couple # 1 dance one strathspey step towards each other, touch Right hands and one backwards. Change places with partners using Left hand with two strathspey steps. Dance forward to meet partner with Right hand, face down and dance down one place. CHANGE TO A LEFT HAND HOLD and turn with partner with two strathspey steps to face first corners. Couple # 2 step up into first place on bars 7 and 8.

PART 2: CORNERS Dancing couple turn FIRST CORNER with a Right hand hold, two strathspey steps. Turn partner in middle with a Left hand hold, two strathspey steps. Turn SECOND CORNER (men up, ladies down) with a Right hand hold, with two strathspey steps. Turn partner with a Left hand with two strathspey steps into two lines in new place (where second couple was before they moved up)

PART 3: Top three ladies holding hands, set to the Right and Left. Men stand still.

Men now set to the Right and Left holding hands AS, AT THE SAME TIME, The Ladies dance two strathspey steps forward. NOTE: Ladies tend to dance forward and back here, so warn them to go forward and forward for two bars right over to the men's side.

Now Ladies dance backwards with two strathspey steps AS, AT THE SAME TIME, Men dance forward towards the ladies with two strathspey steps, (Looking in their eyes)

NOW MEN dance backwards with two strathspey steps as Ladies set to Right and Left.

PART 4: All give Right hand to partner, change places with two strathspey steps. Make a circle of six people and do two strathspey steps to the Left, half way around, drop hands, make two lines.

Immediately give Left hand to partner, change places with two strathspey steps. Circle six hands around to the Right with two strathspey steps, and finish in two lines.

First couple now repeat dance from beginning from new place. Couple now in first place stands still. In other words each top couple gets to do the dance twice and at the end of the second time, slip to the bottom of the set going down the outside.

Presented by Bill Stoddart at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1987

