

Oot Dancing

- Dance for 4 couples in a 4 couple longwise set 4x32 bar Reel
- 1-4 Joining hands on the sidelines, all advance and retire.
- 5-6 All turn partners half way with right hands, finishing in the middle of the set, facing partners.
- 7-8 Dropping hands, all cast to the opposite sidelines.
- 9-12 All chase clockwise half way round the set.
- 13-16 All dance back to back with partners.
- 17-24 4s and 1s cross, 3s and 2s change places on the side to start a grand chain all round the set.
- 25-32 1s join nearer hands and dance to the top of the set. They then make an arch and dance down to the bottom of the set over the 4s, 3s and 2s. 4s, 3s and 2s dance up underneath the arch; when they reach the top of the set they form their own arch and start dancing down the set over the remaining couples.

Finish in the order 2, 3, 4, 1, ready to start again.

Note: Bars 25-32 are deliberately not broken down. 4+4 doesn't work well – the lead up is too slow and the arches too frantic. I suspect 2+6 may be the opposite and 3+5 be about right, but play around and see what works for you in your set - and don't worry if it varies!

When my son Stuart was first born, his sister Lorna called him "Oot". This then progressed to "'Ua't" and then "S'ua't". This dance was written just before Stuart's first birthday, and is dedicated to him.

Tune: The Clumsy Lover *(Neil Dickie)*

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