

Watkin's Ale

Four couples, irregular form Scott Higgs, 1995

This formation evolves from 2-couple sets to a 4-couple longways, then to a square. Start in two 2-couple sets, facing head-to-head. See diagrams.

- A 1 - 8 All lead forward a double (toward the other set) and fall back. All lead away from the other set and fall back.
- B 9 - 16 Shuttles: end couples give two hands and sashay (4 slip steps) between their companion couples, who sashay up or down the outside. All turn partner halfway with two hands. Repeat to places (other folks in middle: always joining hands to move in from the ends)
- C 17 - 24 End couples dance half figures of eight around companion couples. Middle couples do the same through their companion (end) couples. End in a 4-couple longways set (some improper)
- A 1 - 8 All side with partners (Pat Shaw style, shoulder-to-shoulder): right, then left.
- B 9 - 16 Giving hands, all fall back in lines, then move forward to cross over with partner (4 bars). All skip (clockwise) halfway around the set to new places. End couples are still at ends - see diagram.

- C 17 - 24 Draw poussettes: End men draw their partners halfway around the set (clockwise) to change places, ending at the head positions of a square (4 bars). Middle men then draw their partners in a smaller loop (clockwise), to change places and continue an additional place to end at the side positions of a square.
- A 1 - 8 In this square formation, all arm with partners, right, then left.
- B 9 - 16 The four women dance half a right-hand star, and turn the opposite man by the left halfway (as in an "open" ladies chain - 4 bars). Men dance half a right-hand star, and turn their partners (in opposite place) by the left $\frac{3}{4}$. All now have left hand joined with partner, and are facing around the square (women clockwise, men anti-clockwise) toward next neighbor.
- C 17 - 24 Grand chain halfway around the set to home places in the square (fairly slow - wide turns). Turn partner once around with both hands.
- A 1 - 8 All dance a slipping circle left and right.