

Buttongrass Quadrille - David Wanless, October 2005

Written for the eighth annual Buttongrass Ball. Dedicated to the twin Tasmanian heritages - cultural and natural - as exemplified by the old-time dances, the bushwalkers of more recent times and the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who've walked the buttongrass plains since time immemorial.

Music: Set tunes, 48 bars. E.g., for HOT String Band: "Dancing Dustman".

Level: Easy

Formation: 4 or 8 couple square sets

Instructions:

4 bar intro: Honour your partner

A1 - 8 bars: Circle L and R -- 8 slip steps to left, 8 slip steps back

A2 - 8 bars: Tops gallop across and back -- 8 steps each way, going to your R of other couple. Can go beyond set.

B1 - 8 bars: Tops Rh chain across and back -- Rh person give Rh to start

B2 - 8 bars: All set to and turn partner -- All strathspey set, open two-hand turn, with side couples moving to form...

C1 - 8 bars: Top and bottom lines forward and back twice -- 4 steps in and briefly acknowledge opposite on last step; 4 steps back; repeat

C2 - 8 bars: Swing corner -- Ballroom hold. Rh people move on one-place.

Repeat (tops x 2, sides x 2) All should finish back with their original partners. With 8 couples - tops, sides, tops, sides, ...

Variations:

A2: Intermediate version: 4 gallop steps across; full turn; rpt to place.

Advanced version : Double it - all four couples gallop, passing just to R of centre, and just in front of couple to their L.

B1: Advanced version: (almost never do)

1. Double it - all four couples do Rh people's chain, with RH star in centre

2. Alternate - Rh chain first time through dance, Lh chain second time through and so on

See other notes for interpretation of figures.

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Music: Set tunes, 48 bars. E.g., for HOT String Band: "Dancing Dustman".

Formation: 4 couple square sets or 8 - tops, sides, tops, sides, ...

4 bar intro	Honour your partner	
8	Circle L and R	8 slip steps to left, 8 slip steps back
8	Tops gallop across and back	8 steps each way, going to your R of other couple. Can go beyond set. Intermediate: 4 gallop steps across; full turn; rpt to place. Advanced: Double it - all four couples gallop, passing just to R of centre, and just in front of couple to their L.
8	Tops Rh chain across and back	Advanced version: (almost never do) 1. Double it - all four couples do Rh people's chain, with RH star in centre 2. Alternate - Rh chain first time through dance, Lh chain second time through and so on
8	All set to and turn partner	All strathspey set, open two-hand turn, with side couples moving to form...
8	Top and bottom lines forward and back twice	4 steps in and briefly acknowledge opposite on last step; 4 steps back; repeat
8	Swing corner	Ballroom hold. Rh people move on one-place.
	Repeat (tops x 2, sides x 2)	All should finish back with their original partners.