

## MACDONALD OF SLEAT

(Scotland)

This is a set dance in jig time from a Collection of old Highland Dances danced in Appin, Argyll. Madelynn Greene, who learned this dance from C. Stewart Smith, presented it at the 1965 Folk Dance Camp, University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

MUSIC: Record: Parlaphone PMD 1029.

FORMATION: 4 cpls in longways formation. A line of M facing a line of W with ptrs facing, ML shoulder twd music or head of line. Cpls are numbered from 1 to 4 with cpl 1 at head of line. Hands are held freely at sides (W may hold skirt) unless otherwise specified.

STEPS AND STYLING: Skip Change of Step: Hop L, lifting R with toe pointed down, knee turned out (ct 6 of preceding meas). Step fwd R (ct 1). Closing step L behind R, L instep close to R heel (ct 3). Step fwd R (ct 4). Next step starts with hop R (ct 6).

Pas de Basque: Leap\* onto R (ct 1). Step L beside R with L heel close to R instep and L toe turned out (ct 3). Step R extending L fwd, toe pointed down an inch or two off floor, knee straight and turned out (ct 4). Next step starts L.

Cut Step (Scottish Balance): Raise R leg diag fwd R, toe pointed down, knee straight and turned out (ct 6 of preceding meas). Swing R leg bwd displacing L bwd with L toe pointed down, knee straight and turned out (ct 1). Swing L fwd displacing R fwd (ct 4). May also be done on L. Throughout this step there is no movement in the upper part of the body. (No bending).

Setting Step or Set (2 meas): One pas de basque step to R and one to L, usually danced in place.

Slide (2 per meas): May be done either R or L. Step swd with leading ft (ct 1). Close trailing ft to leading ft (ct 3). Repeat (cts 4,6).

M High Cuts (2 per meas): R cuts L bwd, L toe down as L hits back of R calf quickly (ct 1); L hits back of R calf again (ct 3). Leap L to cut R bwd, R toe down as R hits back of L calf (ct 4); hit L calf again (ct 6).

Scottish dancing is done on the balls of the feet, with knees well turned out, toes pointed downward.

NOTE: All steps begin R (hop L) unless otherwise specified.

\*Described in volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, California. The leap as used in this description is defined differently from the leap as ordinarily used in Scottish dancing.

---

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

---

Measures

Chord INTRODUCTION: M bow, W curtsy.

A I. REEL OF 4 ON THE SIDES

Cpls 1 and 2 turn to face each other up and down the set. Cpls 3 and 4 do likewise. With M hands up overhead, thumb to middle finger (or hands may be at sides) dance reel of 4 using 8 skip change of steps as follows:

(See Diagram 1)

Cpl 2 facing up set

Cpl 1 facing down set

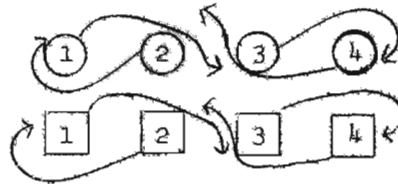
Cpl 3 facing down set

Cpl 4 facing up set

MACDONALD OF SLEAT (continued)

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Pass R shoulders.  | Pass R shoulders.                  |
| 2 | Turn 1/2 CW  | Pass L shoulders in ctr.           |
| 3 | Pass R shoulders with next dancer                        | Pass R shoulders with next dancer. |
| 4 | Pass L shoulders in ctr.                                 | Turn 1/2 CW.                       |
| 5 | Pass R shoulders with next dancer,                       | Pass R shoulders with next dancer. |
| 6 | Turn 1/2 CW.   | Pass L shoulders in ctr.           |
| 7 | Pass R shoulders with next dancer.                       | Pass R shoulders with next dancer. |
| 8 | Pass R shoulders in ctr and turn into place to face ptr. | Turn into place to face ptr.       |

Diagram 1  
W  
M



(rpt) II. CUT STEPS (REEL STEPS)

- 1-4 W join hands in line and W dance one pas de basque R and one cut step L in place. Repeat with pas de basque L and cut step R.
- 5-8 W repeat action of Fig II, meas 104.  
Meanwhile M do appropriate high cut steps in place with hands remaining overhead. High cut variations may be danced as follows:

- Meas 1            2 high cut steps  
Meas 2            Leap R, pointing L toe down in front (ct 1), hands low on back of hips.  
                    Leap L, pointing R toe down in front (ct 4)  
Meas 3-6          Repeat action of meas 1-2 three times total.  
Meas 7-8          Dance 4 high cut steps or repeat action of meas 1-2 again.

B III. CHANGE OVER AND BACK

- 9-12 With hands at sides M1 and W2 change places with 4 skip change of steps, passing R shoulders without taking hands. M3 and W4 do the same.
- 13-16 M2 and W1, M4 and W3 repeat action of Fig III, meas 9-12.  
(All M are now on W side.)
- B (rpt)  
9-12 M1 and W2 with 4 skip change of steps meet in ctr of set and giving R hands turn 1-1/2CW to return to original places. M3 and W4 do the same.
- 13-16 M2 and W1, M4 and W3 meet in the ctr, give R hands and turn 1-1/4CW but finish back to back in ctr of set, each facing own ptr. (See Diagram 2).

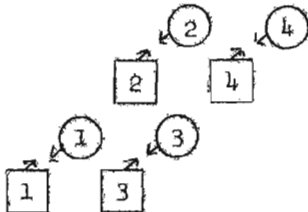


Diagram 2

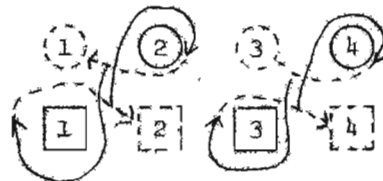


Diagram 3

MACDONALD OF SLEAT (continued)

IV. REEL OF 4 DIAGONALLY

17-24 Cpl 1 with cpl 2, cpl 3 with cpl 4 dance reel of 4 as in Fig I (except M hands are down), moving diag across set. Instead of passing L shoulders in ctr on meas 23-24, M2 and W1 dance across in front of M1 and W2 respectively, while M4 and W3 do similarly. (See Diagram 3).

C(rpt) V. PICKING UP

17-18 M1 dance 2 skip change of steps across the set between ptr and W2. M3 do similarly.

19-20 Dancing 2 pas de basques in place, active cpls 1 and 3 hook L elbows with ptr on first pas de basque. M 1 and 3 turn 1/2 CCW to link R arm in ptr L on second pas de basque.

21-24 Cpl 1 dance across set to M2 with 2 skip change of steps, and all three dance 2 pas de basque steps. M1 link L elbow with M2 on the first step, and on the second step M2 turn once CCW to link R arm in M1 L arm, as cpl 1 turns (wheels) 1/2 CCW around M2 to finish three in line, all facing W2 with M1 in the middle, arms linked, ptr on his R and M2 on his L. Meanwhile cpl 3 does same action with cpl 4. See Diagram 4).

D 25-28 Cpl 1 with M2 dance 2 skip change of steps across the set to W2. All dance 2 pas de basques in place, while M2 and W2 link L arms on first step and on the second step W2 turns 1/2 CCW to link R in ptr L. Meanwhile cpls 3 and 4 do same action.

29-32 With 4 skip change of steps the line of 4 turn together (wheel) 3/4 CCW with W2 as pivot to end all facing bottom of set. Cpls 3 and 4 do same action. (See Diagram 5).

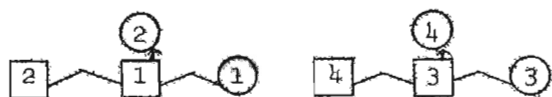


Diagram 4

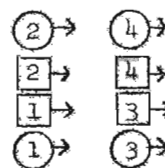


Diagram 5

(rpt) VI. CAST OFF

25-28 Release arm hold and (both begin R) W dance 2 skip change of steps casting off around ptrs (W2 and 4 turning CCW, W1 and 3 CW) to end behind ptr. All set in place R and L.

29-32 With 2 skip change of steps M cast off around ptrs (M2 and 4 turn CCW, M1 and 3 CW) to finish beside ptrs, all facing bottom of set, W in the middle, M on outside. All set in place R and L. (See Diagram 6).

A VII. SLIDE TO THE SIDE

1-4 W join hands and move slightly fwd to pass in front of M, dancing 4 sliding steps swd L, while M carefully keeping the same distance apart dance 4 sliding steps to R. All set in place, W R and L, M L and R.

5-8 All dance 4 sliding steps back into straight lines and set in place, R and L. On last L turn to face ptr.

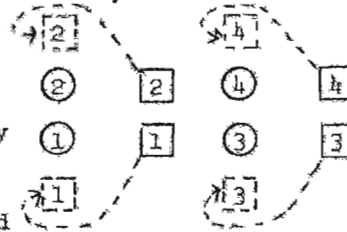


Diagram 6

A VIII. REEL OF 4 ACROSS THE SET

(rpt)

1-8 W1 and 2, and W3 and 4 back to back with each other, facing ptr, all dance reel of 4 across the set as described for Fig I (except that all hands are held free at sides). Finish facing ptr with W still in ctr as at beginning of the reel.

B IX. SET AND TURN PTR

9-12 All set 2 times to ptr. On last, M1 and 3 turn 1/4 CW to finish with back to head of hall. W1 and 3 keep facing ptrs.

13-16 Join both hands with ptr and turn CW with 4 pas de basques, cpls 1 and 3 turning 3/4 CW and cpls 2 and 4 turning 1/2 CW, each cpl adjusting slightly and then separating to finish in original places.

X. CHANGE PLACES (PETRONELLA TURN)

B (rpt)

9-12 All dance 2 pas de basques progressing diag fwd R, turning 3/4 CW to finish facing ptr,

MACDONALD OF SLEAT (concluded)

all in line in ctr of set, W and M back to back. All set to ptr in place R and L.

13-16 Repeat action of Fig X, meas 9-12 to finish in ptr place.

C XI. CUT STEPS (REEL STEPS)

17-24 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8, on opp side of set.

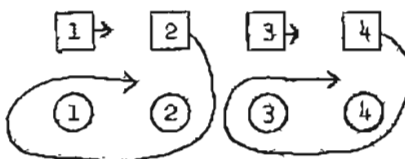
C - XII. M AROUND

(rpt)

17-24

W dance 8 pas de basques, turning 1/4 CW on the 4th step to face bottom of the set. Meanwhile with hands overhead (or at sides) M2 followed by M1 dance 8 skip change of steps across the set, up around W2 and 1 and down the ctr to finish at L of ptr. M4 lead M3 around their W also. (See Diagram 7).

Diagram 7



D XIII. ALLEMANDE

Cpl 1 with 2 and cpl 3 with 4 facing bottom of set in varsouvienne pos (M hands not on bottom but raised from normal handshake, hold so that WL on bottom and WR on outside) dance allemande with cpls 2 and 4 leading cpls 1 and 3 respectively as follows with 8 skip change of step.

25-32

Step 1 Dance diag fwd R down the set.  
Step 2 Lead cpl turn 1/4 CCW and dance into ctr, other cpl following closely behind.  
Step 3 Dance across set and turn 1/4 CCW to face up the set.

Step 4 Dance a long step up the set with other cpl close behind.

Step 5 Both cpls turn 1/4 CCW into ctr of set.

Step 6 Dance twd ctr of set while W turns 1/2 CCW under MR to face ptr with both hands still joined. Music pauses so that M can whisper some gay remark to his ptr as she turns.

Steps

7 & 8 Release hands and both dance bwd into place to finish with M and W on opp sides from original pos, cpls in line numbering 2,1,4,3.

Chord

M bow, W curtsy.