

The Wedding Reel

A 7 1/4 x 32 bar reel for 2 couples in a square.

Composed 16 June 2007 by Anna Botelho.

This dance is set to a medley consisting of portions of “Sidewaulk Reels” (by Capercaillie, “Sidewaulk,” 1989), “I’m Too Sexy” (by Right Said Fred, “Up,” 1992), and “Brenda Stubbert” (by Ashley MacIsaac, “Hi How Are You Today?,” 1995).

(16) Opening: **Lead Around & Back.**

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

(16) Swing Square:

(2) Men face Left (away from partner) and dance 7s Right to neighbor lady. Meanwhile, ladies turn in place once over Right shoulder while setting.

(2) Swing neighbors once around.¹

(10) Repeat, alternating 7s to the Right (men face out, ladies face in, passing face-to-face) and swinging at the corners.

(2) Partners give Right hands to each other, palm-to-palm, and men turn ladies over her Right shoulder 1 1/2 to her home place.

(24) Back Star:

(4) Men turn Left 1 1/2 in center while ladies Fancy Set.²

(4) Turn neighbors by Right once. End in a diagonal line along ladies’ diagonal.³

(4) Turn line halfway (men dance forward; ladies, back).

(4) Turn line one-quarter, with ladies backing in first and *then* men backing out, to men’s diagonal.

(4) Turn line halfway (ladies dance forward; men, back).

(2) Men “lasso” neighbor over his head.⁴

(2) Ladies return to place while men dance 7s Right to meet partner. All take Shadow position.⁵

(8) Around The House, in Shadow position.

¹End swing in a diagonal line with other couple, men’s backs to each other, ladies facing their neighbors.

²See “Fancy Set” note at end.

³See “Diagonal Line” note at end.

⁴Ladies drop hands, then travel clockwise around men while holding his hand. Men stand while “lassoing.”

⁵Partners stand side-by-side. Man place Right hand on lady’s Right hip; lady places her Right hand over his. Man extends Left hand forward, palm up; lady places her Left palm in his.

Music changes melody, to "I'm Too Sexy."

(48) 1st Figure: **Windows.**

- (4) Top couple forms Little Window: couple takes crossed hands (from Shadow position), Rights over Lefts, and man turns partner over her Right shoulder twice.
- (2) Top couple dances 7s toward the bottom couple.
- (2) Top couple turns Right halfway while holding Little Window position.
Meanwhile, bottom couple turns three-quarters by Right, forming a "T," with bottom lady's back to the other couple (pointed between them).
- (2) Top man "lassos" partner clockwise around himself.
Meanwhile, bottom man turns partner over her Right shoulder once around.
- (2) Top couple arches crossed hands while bottom man pushes partner *straight* backwards under arch. Bottom couple then takes crossed hands and creates a 4-person arch.
- (2) All drop hands and turn over Right shoulders (as in "Petronella"), moving roughly one-quarter to opposite's place. (Bottom man turns through the ladies.)
- (2) While setting, all take hands in a ring, hands down on the first bar, then sharply up on the second bar.
- (1) *Without dropping any hands*, men turn ladies using Left hands over the ladies' left shoulder as ladies back into a line of 4 on the men's diagonal, men turning one-quarter to their right, forming a double-reversed Cuddle position.
- (1) All unwind back into a ring.
- (1) Repeat, forming double-reversed Cuddle position, with ladies turning men over their Left shoulders.
- (1) All set in the diagonal line.
- (2) Men release neighbor's hand, but hold onto partner's Right hand, and back under ladies' joined hands to home place.
- (2) Ladies drop joined Left hands, and men turn partner by Right to her home place, as in the body.
- (24) Repeat, bottom couple forming Little Window and dancing toward top couple.

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

Music changes melody, to "Brenda Stubbert," during Back Star.

(16) 2nd Figure: **Southern Cross.**

All dance the following, twice. Men dance 7s first and *then* turn in the middle. Ladies do it in the opposite order: turn in the middle first *then* dance 7s.

(4) 7s:

(2) Face out and dance 7s to the next place of the opposite gender (as in the body).

(2) Turn to face opposite while setting.

(4) Turn In The Middle:

(1) Travel to meet opposite in the middle.

(2) Turn opposite by Right hand three-quarters, to face own gender's place.

(1) Travel to own gender's place.

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

(8) Closing: **Polka To Line.**

(6) Polka, as in Polka Set, 3 times.

On 3rd polka, while turning, form a line to face audience.

(2) Bow as music speeds up and fades.

“Diagonal Line” — maintaining a straight line: keep palms and forearms connected; push shoulders as far back as possible, chest as far forward as possible, to prevent bowing of bodies and the line.

“Fancy Set,” danced by ladies during the body:

- (1) Hop-turn twice on Left foot to the Right (120 degrees, each hop), with Right foot extended and fixed in place (so that it is barely above the floor when landing on the Left foot).
- (1) Sink & Grind. Hop and turn 120 degrees (to face other lady) on initial touch. End with Right foot behind Left.
- (1) Exchange feet twice (right foot goes in front, left behind; then left foot goes in front, right behind).
- (1) Repeat, Sink & Grind. End with Left foot behind Right.

Caller’s Notes for The Wedding Reel:

(16) Opening: **Lead Around & Back.**

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

Music changes melody, to “I’m Too Sexy.”

(48) 1st Figure: **Windows.**

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

Music changes melody, to “Brenda Stubbert,” during Back Star.

(16) 2nd Figure: **Southern Cross.**

(48) Body: **Swing Square, Back Star, Shadow Around The House.**

(8) Closing: **Polka To Line.**

Originally called “Anne’s Wedding Reel,” the dance was performed at the author’s wedding reception. She changed her name from Anne Remsen after she got married. She also created the medley.