

SKIRDAGH SET

This set comes from the townland of Skirdagh, which is outside the town of Newport in County Mayo. It was revived with the guidance of Newport dancing teacher Mickey Kelly.

FIGURE 1: JIG (208 BARS)

- (a) Top couples take crossed hands and dance clockwise to opposite positions, the lady reversing and the gent dancing forward. The gent passes inside the lady as they turn anticlockwise into place there. They then repeat the movements dancing back to home.
- (b) Top ladies chain with right arms in the centre, turn with left arm around the opposite gent and dance back to place, passing right shoulder to right.
- (c) Top couples swing in céilí hold.
- (d) Side couples dance (a) to (c).
- (e) All dance a clockwise circle in single file around the set, each gent in front of his partner.
- (f) All couples swing in céilí hold.
- (g) Top ladies chain with right arms in the centre, turn with left arm around the opposite gent and dance back to place, passing right shoulder to right.
- (h) Top gent and opposite lady advance to swing in the centre, then reverse back to place during the last two bars.
- (i) Top lady and opposite gent advance to swing in the centre and reverse back to place during the last two bars.
- (j) Top couples take crossed hands and dance clockwise to opposite positions, the lady reversing and the gent dancing forward. The gent passes inside the lady as they turn anticlockwise into place there. They then repeat the movements dancing home.
- (k) Top ladies chain with right arms in the centre, turn with left arm around the opposite gent and dance back to place, passing right shoulder to right.
- (l) Top couples dance anticlockwise around the set in waltz hold. The lady reverses as they dance across on the right and both couples turn clockwise into opposite positions. They then repeat the movements back to home.
- (m) Top ladies chain. They take right arms in the centre, turn with left arm around the opposite gent to finish facing in to the centre on his left hand side and the two couples form a circle of four in the centre.
- (n) Top couples swing in a circle of four, reversing back to place during the last two bars.

- (o) Sides dance (g) to (n).
- (p) All swing in place to finish.

(64 bars)
(8 bars)

FIGURE 2: POLKA (136 BARS)

- (a) Top couples, in waltz hold, dance the long 'sevens' across the set, gents passing back to back. They dance fourteen steps on the way over, then, leading on the other foot, dance the long 'sevens' again back to place with ladies passing back to back this time.
- (b) Top couples repeat (a)
- (c) Top ladies chain with right arms in the centre, turn with left arm around the opposite gent and dance back to place, passing right shoulder to right.
- (d) Top couples swing in céilí hold.
- (e) Side couples dance (a) to (d)
- (f) Top couples repeat (a) to (d)
- (g) Side couples repeat (a) to (d) with top couples also swinging at (d) to finish.

(8 bars)
(8 bars)

(8 bars)
(8 bars)
(32 bars)
(32 bars)

(32 bars)

FIGURE 3: REEL (152 BARS)

- (a) All couples advance and retire twice in a circle.
- (b) Ladies join right hands in the centre and dance around clockwise, then join left hands and dance back, passing inside their own partners and inside the next gent, to move on the next position on the right.
- (c) Gents join right hands in the centre and dance around, then join left hands and dance back to place.
- (d) All swing their new partners
- (e) All lead around with the gents right arm around the ladies waist and her left hand resting on the gents shoulder
- (f) All repeat (b) to (e) until leading around with their own partners.
- (g) All couples advance and retire twice in a circle to finish.

(8 bars)

(8 bars)
(8 bars)

(8 bars)
(96 bars)
(8 bars)

FIGURE 4: WALTZ (80 BARS)

- (a) All advance and retire twice in a circle, ladies moving on to the gent on the right while retiring the second time.
- (b) All waltz around the house.
- (c) All repeat (a) and (b) until the ladies are back waltzing with their own partners again.
- (d) All advance and retire twice in a circle to finish.

(8 bars)
(8 bars)

(48 bars)
(8 bars)