

Bardill/Prince 2009

Reel 4:4 32*4 Recommended music: "Craven 12some" Nicol McLaren

THE ROPEMAKER'S REEL

- 1-2 Dancing in 2 couple sub-sets (i.e. 1s with 2s, 3s with 4s):
Ladies set rotating pulling back Right Shoulder and dance on 1 place clockwise.
2M and 1M **also** 4M and 3M turn with 2 Hands, 1M and 3M pivot on the spot and place the 2M and 4M into 1st and 3rd places on the ladies side.
- 3-4 All dance a little more than 1/2 Right Hands across, so that 1s and 3s end facing each other in the middle of the set with men facing up.
- 5-8 1s+3s dance 1/2 Right Shoulder "spine reel", take partners' Right Hand and turn into balance-in-line position. (2s step up, 4s step down to ends of set. on bars 7/8)
- 9-24 All dance a "Traveller Twist"**.
Repeat this figure 3 more times to finish in the same positions as at start of figure [b8]
- 25-32 3s and 1s dance 3/4 Right Hand turns to own sides in 2nd & 4th places. 2s & 4s step up [2 bars] (now 2 3 4 1)
In two couple sub-sets (2s with 3s and 4s with 1s), all dance Right Hands across right round [4]
All take hands and set in lines on the side [2]
End: 2 3 4 1

**** Traveller Twist**

This figure is basically a line of 4 dancers who alternately Bal-in-line then separate & re-align having progressed through 90 degrees. It takes 4 bars. The following description picks up positions at the end of bar 8:

3s and 1s balance-in-line, 2L and 4M set responding (2M and 4L stand) [2 bars]
3L and 1M turn in the centre 3/4 LH while 2L and 4M pivot on the spot turning 3M & 1L 2H round the set corner
3M and 1L twirl on (rotating 1 1/4 in total) to re-join Right H with their partners in line across

The opening 8 bars portray the first spinning up of individual strands, and the capstan feature in the middle 16 represents the winding and twisting of the strands to form a finished rope on the traveller. Ropes were often for sea-use so the "Hornpipey" music suggested is very much a part of the dance.

