

# CAYMAN ISLAND CONTRA

by Don Armstrong

**Formation:** Contra lines, 1, 4, 7, etc., couples active but not crossed over.

**Music:** Shaw 191

Intro - - - - , Active couples swing in the center  
 1-8 - - - - , Put her on the right go down in twos  
 9-16 - - Wheel turn, - - come back to place  
 17-24 - - Cast off, with them and another forward six and back  
 25-32 - - - - , Just the actives do sa do  
 33-40 - - - - , Now the others do sa do  
 41-48 - - - - , Turn contra corners -  
 49-56 (Partner right right opposite left, - - partner right)\* (Cadence calls)  
 57-64 (Left opposite left) - - , - - actives swing (Start of next sequence)  
 \*Caller indicates ON AT THE HEAD every third sequence through the dance.

As the dancers learn the figure, less prompting is necessary. For example:

57-64 - - - - , - - Actives swing  
 1-8 - - - - , - - Actives down  
 9-16 - - - Wheel, - - - come back  
 17-24 - - - Cast off, - - - forward six  
 25-32 - - - - , - - Actives do sa do  
 33-40 - - - - , - - Others do sa do  
 41-48 - - - - , - - Turn contra corners

**TURN CONTRA CORNERS** — The actives, facing across the set, have their partners directly across from them, a "right opposite person" to their right of their partner, and a "left opposite person" to their left of their partner. Actives dance by their partner, joining right hands momentarily as they do so, to turn their *right* opposite by the *left* hand. Actives then dance by their partner again joining right hands momentarily as they do so, to turn their *left* opposite by the *left* hand. Actives then return to place without touching their partners. The active man is always using right hands to pass by his partner, and left hands to the right or left opposite person. The "Pigeon Wing" handhold is a very comfortable one for this action, which normally takes 16 steps.

First done in the British West Indies, introduced in the U.S. in Colorado, it is now a favorite everywhere.