

# Hebridean Weaving Lilt

(Scotland)

A ritual dance for four couples in a longways set. This dance was collected from the Outer Hebrides by Mary Isdale MacNab and published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society in 1987.

Pronunciation:

Tune: "Brochan Lom" or any schottische

Cassette: 4/4 meter

Formation: Longways sets of four couples, numbered 1-4 from the top of the set.

Steps: Running Step (4 steps to the bar with emphasis on the first beat of each bar).

Note: Where possible, the figures are danced in eight-bar phrases, but if this is difficult, the dancers continue running on the spot until the next musical phrase begins.

## Bars

## Pattern

INTRODUCTION. Bow to ptr.

### I. BACK TO BACK

1-8 All dance back to back (do si do) with ptrs twice, passing R shldr to begin.

### II. PARTNER TURN

1-8 All turn ptrs with R and then L arms (linked arms instead of joining hands), falling back to own lines at the end of each turn.

### III. REEL

1-8 1's run down the middle, turn each other with R arms 1 1/2 times; turn 4's (1st M with 4th W and 1st W with 4th M) L arms; turn each other with R arms; turn 3's with L arms; turn each other with R arms; turn 2's with L arms; turn each other with R arms. Finish at the top with nearer hands joined, facing down the set.

### IV. ARCHES

1-8 1's make an arch and run down the M's side of the set, while the 3 M kneel and clap hands on the first beat of each bar. The 1's continue their arch and run up the W's side of the set, while the 3 women kneel and clap hands on the first beat of each bar.

### V. THE SHUTTLE

1-8 All cpls join both hands with ptrs. The 1st cpl is the "shuttle." The 2's, 3's, and 4's run four steps out to the W's side and four steps back, while 1's run four steps out to the M's side and four steps back, finishing below the 2's. Repeat, 1's finishing below the 3's; repeat 1's finishing below the 4's. The 2's, 3's, and 4's drop hands and retire to sidelines while the 1's run up to the top.

## Hebridean Weaving Lilt—continued

VI. THE LOOM

- 1-8 All join nearer hands with ptrs, 1's and 3's facing down and the 2's and 4's facing up. Using four running steps, the 1's and 3's dance down the set while the 2's and 4's dance up, the 1's (and 3's) dancing under an arch formed by 2's (and 4's). Using four running steps, the 1's and 4's change places (1's making the arch), while the 2's at the top and the 3's at the bottom turn towards each other, changing hands, to face the other way (2's facing down and 3's up). Continue this pattern to finish in original positions. Arches are made sharply on the first beat of each bar.

VII. THREADING

- 1-8 All face ptrs, the W moving a little to the L and crossing their raised arms L over R to join hands with the M, who do not cross their arms. The 4th W, with her R hand free, is the "needle" and she leads the others up the middle under the crossed hands. All follow, the M turning under their R arm to avoid breaking the thread. As the 4th W comes out at the top, she leads the others round CCW behind the M's line to form one large circle.

VIII. WINDING THE BOBBIN

- 1-8 The 1st M is the "bobbin." He stands still, releasing the hand of the 4th W, who represents the end of the thread. She begins to wind the thread of the bobbin, winding around and around him CCW, until all 7 dancers are tightly wound around 1st M. 1st M now crouches down and comes out between the 4th cpl, bringing the "thread" (line of dancers) with him, moving CW until all finish again in one circle.

IX. THE EYELET

- 1-8 All face ptrs, M facing CCW and W CW. Link R arms with ptr and run around each other 1 1/2 times. Turn the next person with L arms 1 1/2 times; continue this chain until ptrs meet. When turning, the free hand is held at the waist to represent the eyelet.

X. FINISH

- 1-8 Ptrs join crossed hands and, leaning away from each other, run around on the spot for eight steps. Then, still turning, all begin to move round the circle CCW to finish the dance.

Presented by Robert McOwen  
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