

# A COUNTRY DANCE: THE FEMALE SAYLOR

**Formation:** A progressive longways dance for four or more couples. The figures are performed by sets of two couples (marked #1 and #2) dancing together.

**Step:** WALKING STEP, beginning on the right foot, with two steps to each measure of music.

## Directions

After Honors to Partner,

**FIGURE I: LEAD THROUGH and CAST.**  
16 steps, 8 measures,  
Section A of the music.

1. #1 couples join inside hands and walk between the couple *above* them and then cast back to place. (The couple at the top of the formation must lead through an imaginary couple above them.) 8 steps.

2. #1 couples lead through the couple *below* them and cast back to place. 8 steps.

**FIGURE II: HALF FIGURE EIGHT and RIGHT-HAND TURN.**  
16 steps, 8 measures,  
Section A of the music.

1. #1 couples dance a half figure eight around #2 couples below them. (#1 lady dances between #2 couple and around #2 man. At the same time #1 man dances between #2 couple, allowing his partner to precede him in crossing, and around #2 lady.) 8 steps.

2. #1 couples meet in the center of the set, join right hands, and make a full turn clockwise, the man finishing on the lady's side, the lady finishing on the man's. 8 steps.

**FIGURE III: BACK-TO-BACK and TWO-HAND TURN.**  
16 steps, 8 measures,  
Section B of the music.

1. #1 lady walks forward toward #2 man, then passes him by the right shoulder, back-to-back with him, and walks backward to place passing by the left shoulder. #1 man and #2 lady do the same. (This movement is called "Do-Si-Do" in square dancing.) 8 steps.

2. #1 lady and #2 man do a two-hand turn clockwise. #1 man and #2 lady also do a two-hand turn clockwise. All dancers end where they began this figure. 8 steps.

**FIGURE IV: BACK-TO-BACK, TWO-HAND TURN, and CAST DOWN.**  
16 steps, 8 measures,  
Section C of the music.

1. #1 couples do a back-to-back with each other, passing by the right shoulder. 8 steps.

2. #1 couples do a two-hand turn halfway around to their own sides of the set, then cast down the outside one place. (Note that #2 couple must move up as #1 couple casts down so the #1 couple may step back into the line.) 8 steps.

This dance is one of several from the "Colonial Singing Games and Dances", a Booklet and Record published by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, (write to Box C, Williamsburg, Va., 23185)

The recording is an LP Album # WS 107  
The dance is found on Side 2 as Dance # 3.

Don Armstrong

The tune "The Female Saylor" was popular as a dance tune in England in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

The second tune, "Hunt the Squirrel," also popular as a dance in England, is from Playford's *Dancing Master*.

The music is recorded eight times. "The Female Saylor" is the beginning and ending tune; "Hunt the Squirrel" is alternated with "The Female Saylor" in the interior of the dance music.