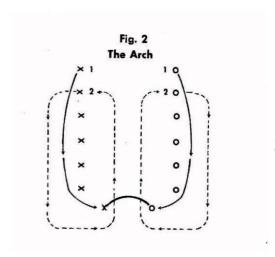
THE VIRGINIA REEL

The advantage of the "longways" manner of doing the Reel as suggested here, over the traditional set of six couples with a "head" and "foot" couple, is that there is more activity going on for all couples simultaneously than is possible when only the head and foot couples work out the dance patterns each time through the dance.

THE DANCE

Six couples line up facing each other; gents in one line, ladies in the other. (Fig. 1)

			Fig. 1			
	Н	ead	of the	e Roo	m	
Head Gent	×	1	t	1	0	Head Lady
	×	2		2	0	
	×				0	
	×				0	
	×				0	
	×			8	0	



It is suggested that each set of dancers consist of 6 couples, although it is possible to have any number. The couple at one end can be designated as the "head couple" for the purposes of the "reeling" and the "walk-around" figures.

The music consists of three parts: A, for the figures which all couples perform together; B, for the reeling; and C, for the marching or "walk-around". Each section must be repeated as often as necessary to cover the action.

MUSIC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	and	-	-	-	-	-	-	ACTIONS
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	THE "LONGWAYS"
Part A	
Meas. 1-4 (8 counts)	Ladies all walk forward 4 steps toward partners, bowing slightly on the 4th count and returning to place with 4 steps.
Meas. 5-8 (8 counts)	Gents do the same.
Meas. 9-12	Ladies and gents approach each other; each grasps partner's R hand, and turns him (or her) around once, then moves back to place.
Meas. 13-16	The same, using L hands.
Meas. 1-4 (repeated)	Again the same figure, but using both hands.
Meas. 5-8	Now pass around each other, back to back (do-si-do*), arms folded across chest, passing R shoulders.
Meas. 9-12	Another do-si-do, but this time passing L shoulders.
Meas. 13-16	Head gent and lady only approach each other, grasp both

4 slides back to place.

hands, and slide 4 slides down toward the foot of the set, and

^{*}An Americanization of dos-à-dos, meaning "back-to-back".

Part B

Use as much music as needed. The pianist must watch carefully and know when to shift to the music for the next section. (When done correctly, each reeling of a partner or other person should use 8 counts of the music, and then 8 more for the slide back to the top, so that the "reel" music should be played through twice completely for each head couple.)

Head couple reels off — that is, they approach each other, link R arms and turn around once completely, then half way around again, so that the gent is now ready to offer his L arm to the lady of couple number 2, and the head lady is ready to offer her L arm to the gent of couple 2.

Each links his (or her) L arm with the gent (or lady) of couple 2, and turns that person around once.

Then the head gent and lady turn each other with R arms linked. And so this reeling continues down the rest of the set, the head couple alternately turning each other and then another couple—always reeling each other with R arms and the others with L arms. (The others can help greatly by having their L arms ready to offer to the approaching "reeler"!)

When the foot of the set is reached, the head gent and lady turn each other half way around so that the gent is back on his original side of the set, and the lady is back on her side.

Then they grasp both hands and slide 8 slides to the top of the set, ready for the march or "walk-around".

THE MARCH

Part C

Meas. 1-8 (16 counts)

Meas. 9-16 (16 counts)

Walk-around Figure

The head gent and head lady lead their respective lines around the outside of the set (gent goes to his L and lady to her R) and down to the foot, everyone else following single file. (Fig. 2—solid line.)

The Arch

When head couple gets to the foot, they form an arch with uplifted arms and joined hands, under which the other couples pass. Now the head couple has become the last couple in the set, and couple 2 is the new head couple. (Fig. 2—broken line.)

Now the dance is ready to start again from the beginning with the new head couple: first the "longways", then the reeling, sliding, walk-around, and the arch. Continue until each couple in the set has had a chance to be the head couple.



"___they form an arch___