

**Miss McLeod's Reel**  
(or *The Enterprise and Boxer* or *Whipple's Hornpipe*)

a proper contra dance for as many as will

First couple down the centre, turn half round (lady on gent's side, gent. on lady's side), cast off, ladies chain, promenade 4, forward and back, cross over to place.

Elias Howe, American Dancing Master and Ball-room Prompter (1862, p. 83)

Set up:

\* Couples form a long line, facing the head of the hall, ladies on the gentlemen's right hands (all the gentlemen are in one line, and all the ladies in the other.

\* Hands four from the top. (1<sup>st</sup> couple turns around in place and takes hands with 2<sup>nd</sup> couple, 3<sup>rd</sup> couple turns around in place and takes hands with 4<sup>th</sup> couple, etc., down the line to form little circles of four dancers. These are each sub-sets of the large set.) The couples who are facing down the hall (towards the foot of the set) are Active couples; those who are facing up the hall (towards the head of the set) are Inactive couples.

\* Drop hands.

1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 (counts)

Active couples walk down the inside of the set; turn as a couple halfway to face up the set.

(Gentlemen will be on the ladies' side of the set. Ladies will be on the gentlemen's side of the set.)

2-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Active couples walk up the set; cast off with the Inactives. Finish on the side of the set, facing partner across the set. Actives have progressed and are below the Inactives.

(Active gentleman grasp right hand with Inactive lady's left hand. Active gentleman walks forward around in a circle while Inactive lady pivots in place. Active lady grasp left hand with Inactive gentleman's right hand. Active lady walks forward around in a circle while Inactive gentleman pivots in place.)

3-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Ladies chain across.

(In the small sub-sets, ladies take right hands in the center of the set and pass by each other, taking left hands with partner. Ladies walk in a small circle while the men pivot - one can also think of this as a left-hand turn halfway round. Ladies finish standing on the side of the set next to their partner's right hand and facing into the set. The Active couple is facing the Inactive couple who are on the side of the set across from them. Ladies are on the opposite side of the set from where they started; the gentlemen have not moved from their positions.)

4-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Ladies chain back.

(Repeat the above, ladies taking right hands in the center of the set and passing by to take left hands with their contrary (the gentleman who is not their partner). Finish facing across the set from partners. Continue to hold left hands with the contrary, and join right hands with the contrary (skater's position).

5-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Promenade across the set.

(In the skater's position, couples walk across the set, gentlemen on the inside passing left shoulders. Turn as a couple to face into the set, ladies walking forward and gentle men backing-up to execute the turn.

6-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Promenade back.

(Walk across the set, gentlemen on the inside passing left shoulders. Finish facing into the set as before.)

7-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Forward and back.

(Everyone join hands with the person next to you on the side of the set. Take four steps forward into the center of the set and four steps backwards.)

8-2-3-4-5-6-7-8

Active couples cross over to place.

(Active couple walk across the set passing by right shoulders. All the gentlemen should now be on one side, all the ladies should be on the other side. Actives look down the set to the new Inactive couple. Inactives look up the set to a new Active couple.)

Repeat the figure.

Note: Couples who are at the top and the bottom of the set do not have a couple with whom to dance. Face into the set, and stand where you are for one repetition of the figure, then rejoin the set on the next repetition The couple at the top of the set is now Active and moving down the set. The couple at the bottom of the set is now Inactive and moving up the set.

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