

Syracuse Assembly Dance Instructions

Note about Terminology

Most directions in this document are positional. When the word “corner” is used, it refers to the dancers in that position in the dance regardless of their corner position at the start of the dance.

When role terms are occasionally used for clarity, we use men and women.

We understand that different people have different preferences in this regard. Thanks to all our dancers for their flexibility.

Bel Canto (Susan Kevra, 2018)

Longways duple minor

- A1 1st corners RH turn
Partners R sh side into line, turn single L to place
- A2 2nd corners LH turn
Partners L sh side into line, turn single R to place
- B Circle L halfway, then fall back with neighbors on the side
2 changes of rights & lefts, starting with partner. [*All home*]
1s cross and go below to meet in center
while 2s lead up & cast down to the ends of a line of 4, all facing up
Line of 4 lead up and fall back.
1s cross up & cast down,
while 2s cast down and lead up

Delia (Ellen Taylor, 1987)

Three couple longways set

- A Partners step R and honor, step L and honor
All RH turn partner
All promenade to left back to places
- B 1s cross and cast to middle, half figure-eight through 2s
1s cross and cast to bottom, half figure-eight through third couple
- C Starting at bottom of set, mirror hey
All turn partners with both hands, set and turn single

Elephants Stairs (Walsh, 1727; Andrew Shaw interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 1s figure eight around 2s, starting by casting down
- A2 2s figure eight around 1s, starting by casting up
- B1 Left file dancers lead through opposite pairs and cast back
1s lead down through 2s and cast back
- B2 Right file dancers lead through opposite pairs and cast back
2s lead up, cast back, and lead up
while 1s cast down, lead up, and cast down again

Elverton Grove (Walsh, 1712, John Millar interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 All turn single toward neighbor; balance forward & back
Partners trade places, crossing by R sh and turning R to face across
- A2 All turn single R; balance forward & back
Partners trade places, crossing by R sh and turning R to face across
- B L file lead thru R file, cast back to place; Repeat with others leading
1s half figure-8 down thru 2s, join hands with N (*impr.*) & set
1s continue half figure-8, join hands with N (*proper*) & set
1s cast to second place, 2s lead up

The Fandango (Thompson, 1774, W. S. Porter interpretation)

Three couple longways set

- A1 1s RH turn, cast to middle place (*2s moving up*).
- A2 1s LH turn and cast to the bottom (*3s moving up*).
- B1 Slipping circle for six, L and R.
- B2 1s lead up to the top, cast to middle place (*3s moving down*) and cloverleaf turn
single down and away
- A3 1s 2H turn first corners (R diagonal); 1s 2H turn in center
- A4 1s 2H turn second corners about halfway, then turn each other, slowly then
gradually faster, until back on original side
- B3 1s each look left and dance a full figure-8 through that end couple
- B4 1s change ends and do a hey for three with the other end couple
(*At end of the hey, 1s lead to the bottom.*)

Foxfire (Steve Sargent, 2009)

Longways duple minor, improper

- A1 Circle left halfway, then cast back one place in minor set
2nd corners change places passing L sh, then 1st corners change passing L
- A2 Circle right halfway, then cast back one place
1st corners change places passing R sh, then 2nd corners change passing R
(*all are home*)
- B1 Double Mad Robin clockwise (1st corners passing in center to start)
Partners set & turn single
- B2 Neighbors right shoulder round
Neighbors pass R sh & new neighbors back-to-back

Hambleton's Round O (Playford, 1710, Bernard Bentley interpretation)

Longways triple minor

- A 1s cast to 2nd place (2s move up)
1s each go to their right to start L sh hey for three with end couple
1s 2H turn in middle (*last 2 bars*) and face up
- B 1st corners change places, 2nd corners change
Circle L halfway & all four turn single R
Starting with partner, same four dance circular hey (4 changes)

Interruptions (Miriam Newman, 2011)

Longways duple minor

- A1 Partners RH turn halfway
All single file circle (*CW around the minor set*) halfway
Repeat both moves. (*All home*)
- A2 2nd corners RH turn halfway. Second corners keep RH while 1st corners join in to form a RH star
Star once around. Second corners drop out, first corners retain RH and...
1st corners RH turn halfway. (*All are improper and progressed.*)
- B1 Partners dance a long back-to-back
Partners RH turn halfway
Neighbors LH turn left 3/4 to form a line of four, all facing neighbor
- B2 Pass neighbor L sh to begin a half hey for four
Neighbors LH turn 3/4 to reform the longways set
Partners RH turn halfway, continuing into the next round of the dance

The Jovial Beggars (Playford, 1701, Charles Bolton interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 1s chase CCW halfway, ending below and crossed over, 2s moving up
1s cross back to their own side by L sh
- A2 2s chase CW halfway, ending below and crossed over, 1s moving up
2s cross back to their own side by R sh (*all are home*)
- B1 1s lead down the center, change hands, and return just in time for...
Gate turn with nbr, 1s going fd, all the way round to a line-of-4 facing up
- B2 Line-of-4 up a double and fall straight back
1s lead up and cast down, *while* 2s meet behind 1s and lead up

Master Barton's Arrival (David Smukler, 2018)

Longways duple minor

- A1 1s cast down one place as 2s lead up
1s half figure-8 up through the 2s
2s cast down one place as the 1s lead up
2s half figure-8 up through the 1s (*all now improper*)
- A2 2nd corners LH turn 1-1/2, trading places
1st corners RH turn 1-1/2
(*All are now proper and progressed*)
- B1 Circle left once, turn single L
LH star once, back to progressed place, turn single R
- B2 Starting with partner, two changes of R & L
Three quick changes of circular hey, continue to face out
Lead away with neighbor; return and cross the set by the R sh
Partners 2-hand turn once around

Meeting and Parting (Alan Winston, 2018)

Longways duple minor

- A Poussette CW halfway
First corners RH turn 1-1/2 to change places, end facing neighbor across the set
Poussette CW halfway
Original first corners (now at home) RH turn 1-1/2 and ease out to face partner
(All are progressed and crossed over)
- B Partners pass R shoulder and face *(close together)*
All turn single L and face diagonally in
LH star once around, ease out facing partner
With neighbor, fall back and set to partner
Dance forward to 2H turn partner once round

Mr. Isaac's Maggot (Playford, 1695, Cecil Sharp interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A M1 RH turn corner 3/4; return home by moving below & around M2
Similarly, W1 LH turn corner 3/4; return home going below and around W2
- B Taking inside hands w/ N, all fall back 6 steps, come fd. 3 steps, turn single R
Starting with P: circular hey (3 changes), end in line-of-4 facing up *(1s between 2s)*
Line lead up a double & fall back; 2s gate 1s up and around to progressed place

A New Leaf (Brooke Friendly and Chris Sackett, 2018)

Longways duple minor

- A Partners 2H turn once round; Circle 4-hands to left
Circle 4-hands to right; Neighbors 2-hand turn CCW once round
- B Double Mad Robin CCW 1-1/2 *(2nd corners through middle to begin)*
- C Partners balance *(current 2nd corners balance fd & bk; others balance bk and fd)*
Neighbors gate turn *(1st corners continue moving fd)*
Partners set, turn single R

Orange Nan (Walsh, 1713, Andrew Shaw interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 Partners cross by R-sh; turn about R to face back into set
2nd corner places cross by R sh, turn R to face partner on side of set
- A2 Partners cross by R-sh, turn about R to face back into set
New 2nd corner persons cross by R-sh, turn R to face neighbor
(All now back at home)
- B1 Neighbors long back-to-back
Starting w/ partner, 4 changes of R & L
- B2 1s cross and go below *while* 2s meet and lead up
2s cross and go below *while* 1s meet and lead up *(all improper)*
1s cast down *while* 2s meet and lead up
Partners 2H turn halfway

Sams Maggot (Walsh & Hare, 1728, Andrew Shaw interpretation)

3 couple longways set

- A1 1st man weaves down his line, passing inside 2nd man, outside 3rd man then up the middle to his partner's place
Meanwhile, 1st woman waits, then crosses set and turns L
1s LH turn halfway to home
- A2 1st woman similarly weaves down her line, returns up the middle into her partner's place, with 1st man waiting, crossing, and turning R to face in
1s RH turn halfway to home
- B1 1s & 2s set R & L to P, turn single R, then R & L 2 changes
1s (*now in middle*) and 3s RH turn once, then 1s and 2s LH turn once
- B2 1s & 2s set R & L to P, turn single R, then R & L 2 changes to home
1s only set R & L, then cast down to 2nd place, 2s leading up
1s lead down to 3rd place and turn down and away from each other
while 3s long cast up into 2nd place

Trip to Komodo (Gary Roodman, 2021)

4 couple longways set, 1s and 3s improper

- A Working in sets of 2 couples, all spacious turn single R
With P, poussette CW halfway
Repeat all that to home
- B Taking hands 4, all walk into the center and fall back moving one place L around the foursome
Repeat. (*The minor sets are now turned halfway round*)
With neighbor (*along the line*) R shoulder round
Serpentine Progression: Middle two M, taking P's near hand and keeping backs to the other middle couple, draw P out to the L and around (backwards circle) to change places and face end couples. In new foursomes, M draw P's out & around CW to new places.
- C Beginning with N, four changes of R & L, remain facing out
With Nbr, lead away and tum as a couple
Sweep back in and pass through with partner

Upper Valley Waltz (Steve Sargent, 2009)

Longways duple minor

- A1 Set to partner, turn single R once and a bit to face on R diagonal
Back-to-back that person and stay facing them
- A2 Set to right diagonal, turn single right 3/4 to face on the left diagonal
Back-to-back left diagonal, stay facing that person
- B1 Partners R sh curvy siding over, L sh back
With RH, balance partner and twirl to swap (box the gnat)
- B2 Partners back-to-back, 1s end by taking two hands in middle of set
Chassez two steps to progress, 1s down the middle, 2s individually up the outside
Partners 2H turn halfway

Well Hall (Playford, 1679, Frank Van Clef interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 1s RH turn once-and-a-half
1s cast down one place, 2s moving up
1s change places, Hole in the Wall style
- A2 2s repeat all that
- B1 1st corners change places, 2nd corners change places
Circle left halfway
All turn single, 1s up and away, 2s down and away
- B2 2nd corners change places, 1st corners change places
Circle left halfway
1s cast down *while* 2s lead up

Woodstock Park (Kynaston, in Walsh, 1711, Andrew Shaw interpretation)

Longways duple minor

- A1 Partners set R & L then 1s cast down into 2nd place, 2s leading up
1s look R: Half figure 8 through those couples, passing R sh with next actives
- A2 2s repeat A1. (*All now home but improper.*)
- B 1s dance R sh around nbr (*who stands still*)
Hands 4, circle L halfway and fall back
Starting with partner, 4 changes of R & L