

## The Merchant Set

*We composed this set for the dancers in our class in O'Shea's Merchant Pub on Bridge Street in Dublin. We would like to dedicate the set to our dancers and to Ned O'Shea who has been a wonderful friend to us over the years. The feature of the set is that each couple will dance in first top's position.*

<b>Figure 1 Reels</b> (Caledonian 1/Plain 2)		<b>128 Bars</b>
(a)	<b>Circle and swing;</b> All take hands in a circle, advance and retire twice and swing in waltz hold.	<b>16 Bars</b>
(b)	<b>First tops house;</b> First top couple house on the inside.	<b>8 Bars</b>
(c)	<b>Advance and retire, cross over and swing.</b> Everyone in waltz hold, tops turn left and sides turn right. All advance and retire once, then ladies cross right shoulder and gents cross left shoulder. Swing in waltz hold	<b>16 Bars</b>
(d)	<b>Second Couple house</b> Second couple house on the inside from first tops position.	<b>8 Bars</b>
(e)	<b>Advance and retire, cross over and swing.</b> Everyone in waltz hold, new tops turn right and sides turn left. All advance and retire once, then ladies cross right shoulder and gents cross left shoulder. Swing in waltz hold	<b>16 Bars</b>
(f)	<b>Repeat (b) to (e)</b> Repeat (b) to (e) with third and fourth couples housing on the inside from first tops position.	<b>48 Bars</b>
(g)	<b>House</b> All couples house to finish.	<b>8Bars</b>

<b>Figure 2 Reels</b> (Caledonian 3/Plain 6)		<b>192 Bars</b>
(a)	<b>Circle and swing;</b> All take hands in a circle, advance and retire twice and swing in waltz hold.	<b>16 Bars</b>
(b)	<b>First tops house;</b> First top couple house on the inside.	<b>8 Bars</b>
(c)	<b>First couple dance the square;</b> First couple take right hand in right, dance forward, face their partner, gent pulls the lady's hand and turns the lady, both change places to face out, dance forward again, gent turns the lady as before and they change places to face in.	<b>8 Bars</b>
(d)	<b>Top couples swing in four.</b> Top couples swing in four, with hands around the waist, after six bars break to the right into lines in sides' position. While tops are swing sides take a step to their right.	<b>8 Bars</b>
(e)	<b>Advance and retire and circle right;</b> All advance and retire, advance again and take hands in a circle and everyone retires moving one place to the right. All swing.	<b>16 Bars</b>
(f)	<b>Repeat (b) to (e);</b> Repeat (b) to (e) with second, third and fourth couple housing on the inside from first top's position	<b>120 Bars</b>
(g)	<b>House to finish</b>	<b>8 Bars</b>

<b>Figure 3 Reels</b> (Caledonian 1/Plain 2)		<b>128 Bars</b>
(a)	<b>Circle and swing;</b> All take hands in a circle, advance and retire twice and swing in waltz hold.	<b>16 Bars</b>
(b)	<b>First tops house;</b>	<b>8 Bars</b>

	First top couple house on the inside.	
(c)	<b>Gents star left and ladies dance to the left. All swing;</b> All face their partners, gents put left hands in and dance around 1 ¼ ways to the position on the right. Ladies all face to the left, they dance two bars in place and then dance around on the outside ¾ of the way to meet their own partners. All swing.	<b>16 Bars</b>
(d)	<b>Side couples repeat (b) - (c);</b> All dance (b) and (c) with second, third and fourth couples housing on the inside from first top's position.	<b>72 Bars</b>
(e)	<b>House to finish;</b>	<b>8 Bars</b>

	<b>Figure 4      Hornpipes</b> 2)	(Port Fairy)	<b>144 Bars</b>
(a)	<b>Circle and swing;</b> All take hands in a circle, advance and retire twice and swing in waltz hold.		<b>16 Bars</b>
(b)	<b>First tops house;</b> First top couple house on the inside.		<b>8 Bars</b>
(c)	<b>Turn the lady;</b> First tops take right hand in right, gents turns the lady four times as she moves around on the inside of the set.		<b>8 Bars</b>
(d)	<b>Sevens and dance around;</b> All couples take waltz hold, tops turn left, sides turn right. All dance seven forward and seven back then dance around in waltz turning twice to change places.		<b>8 Bars</b>
(e)	<b>Repeat (b) to (d);</b> All dance (b) and (c) with second, third and fourth couples housing on the inside from first top's position. When the second and fourth couples are dancing the new tops will turn right for the sevens.		<b>72 Bars</b>
(f)	<b>All circle and swing;</b> All circle advance and retire twice and swing in waltz hold		<b>16 Bars</b>
(g)	<b>House to finish;</b>		<b>8 Bars</b>

Suggestions are given for music which you may already have to dance the figures.

Notes provided by Pádraig and Róisín Mc Eaney

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