

The Standard Lancers

Record: LS 161 (parts 1, 2, 3)/ 162 (parts 4, 5)

This is the most popular quadrille in the history of American square dancing. During the 2nd half of the 19th century, every dance program included at least one lancers, of which the "Standard" was probably the most popular. The dance is to be prompted (calls given just prior to the dance phrase) rather than called.

Figure 1

Counts

16 ADDRESS PARTNERS (8), ADDRESS CORNERS (8)

Partners take three short steps away from each other, make a little bow on the 4th step, recover on the 5th, and take three shorts back together again. Repeat with corners. Give the cue before the music starts, there is no introduction.

8 HEAD FOUR FORWARD AND BACK

Head couples move toward the opposite couple four steps and back to place four steps.

8 AND TURN THE OPPOSITE

With a two-hand hold at shoulder height, head four turn the opposite person once around and go back to place.

8 HEAD COUPLE PROMENADE BETWEEN THE OPPOSITE

8 AND RETURN ON THE OUTSIDE

First couple in promenade position divide the opposite couple, each couple moving forward and turning into opposite position. Return in reverse.

8 ALL BALANCE CORNERS

All balance four steps forward and four steps backward with corners.

8 AND TURN PARTNERS

All make a two-hand complete turn with partner and turn

into place.

48 Repeat the above for the side couples. Do not repeat the 16 count introduction (Address Partners, Address Corners).

Figure 2

Counts

16 WAIT. Just wait! See how convincingly you can do it.

Smile at your corner; chat with your partner.

8 HEAD FOUR FORWARD AND BACK

8 TURN LADIES TO CENTER, FACE PARTNERS

Head couples join hands with partners, walk four steps to center of set. Ladies turn to face their partners in four counts while men step back to place in four counts.

8 CHASSEZ RIGHT AND LEFT

Partners facing each other (active couples) each individual slides four steps to the R and four to the L.

8 TURN PARTNERS TO PLACE

Head gentlemen step fwd, give both hands to partner and turn her back to place.

8 SIDE FOUR SEPARATE TO HEAD AND FORWARD AND BACK

Sides divide instantly and join heads in lines of four.

Forward four steps and back four steps.

8 FORWARD AGAIN AND TURN PARTNERS TO PLACES.

48 Repeat the above for the side couples. Do not repeat the introductory wait.

Figure 3

Counts

16 WAIT

8 HEAD FOUR FORWARD AND BACK

8 FORWARD AGAIN AND ADDRESS

Head couples step fwd to each other, make a little duck on the 4th count and back up to place.

16 HEAD LADIES CHAIN

Full chain across, courtesy turn, cross back and turn into place.

32 Repeat the above for the sides. Do not repeat the wait.

8 ALL JOIN HANDS, FORWARD AND BACK

8 FORWARD AGAIN AND ADDRESS

All make a little duck.

16 FOUR LADIES GRAND CHAIN

Full around. Right hand star across, courtesy turn with opposite man, chain back, turn into place.

Figure 4

Counts

16 WAIT

8 HEAD COUPLES LEAD TO THE RIGHT and ADDRESS

The music will tell you just what to do. Take short steps to the couples on the right. When the long-held chord comes in the music, the ladies make a slow, deep bow. Tuck one foot behind the other and go down as far as you can. There is a little "plink" in the music that tells you to get up again.

The gentlemen bow from the hips in a courtly fashion, hands hanging at sides. Use your skirts, girls.

8 HEAD COUPLES LEAD AROUND TO THE LEFT and ADDRESS

8 HEAD COUPLES RETURN TO PLACE, and ADDRESS PARTNERS

This address is much shorter. Be ready to step right into the next change or figure.

8 HEAD COUPLES RIGHT AND LEFT THROUGH
8 AND RIGHT AND LEFT BACK
40 Repeat the above with side couples leading out to the left.
Do not repeat the wait.

Figure 5

Counts

Before the music starts, call "ADDRESS PARTNERS." On the long chord ladies make another deep, slow curtsey, as in part 4. After this the first change is called and the music begins.

32 GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT

A regular grand right and left (beginning with partner's R hand and progressing in that direction fully around the circle, alternating hands as you go) but go full around. Pause and bow slightly to your partner as you meet her in the opposite position. Then meet her at your home position.

8 FIRST COUPLES PROMENADE THE INSIDE AND FACE OUT

First couple promenade in a small CCW circle in regular promenade pos. Come back to home place facing out.

8 AND THE SIDES FALL IN

The third couple is already in line and facing in the right direction. Couple 2 falls in behind couple 1, and couple 4 behind 2, each taking four counts for the maneuver.

16 CHASSEZ

Ladies slide to the L 8 counts, passing in front of their partners, while men slide to the R, then all back to place in 8 counts.

16 MARCH

Ladies to the R and men to the L. Both lines turn out and march to the foot of the set in 8 counts, cross each other

and back into line in 8 counts. The ladies are now on the L
and the men on the R.

8 ALL FORWARD AND BACK

The two lines facing each other.

8 ALL FORWARD AND TURN PARTNERS

Lines move fwd 4 counts, then turn partners to places with
a two-hand turn.

32 GRAND SQUARE (see instructions below)

8 SECOND COUPLE PROMENADE AND FACE OUT

8 AND THE HEADS FALL IN (3 behind 2, 1 behind 3)

16 CHASSEZ (as above)

16 MARCH (as above)

8 ALL FORWARD AND BACK

8 ALL FORWARD AND TURN PARTNERS

32 GRAND SQUARE (see instructions below)

8 THIRD COUPLE PROMENADE AND FACE OUT

8 AND THE SIDES FALL IN

16 CHASSEZ

16 MARCH

8 ALL FORWARD AND BACK

8 ALL FORWARD AND TURN PARTNERS

32 GRAND SQUARE

8 FOURTH COUPLE PROMENADE AND FACE OUT

8 AND THE HEADS FALL IN

16 CHASSEZ

16 MARCH

8 ALL FORWARD AND BACK

8 ALL FORWARD AND TURN PARTNERS

8 ALL JOIN HANDS AND FORWARD AND BACK

8 ALL FORWARD AGAIN AND ADDRESS

Step in twd the center of the set, turn to partner and make a

little bow, step back into place and...

16 ALL PROMENADE TO SEATS

The music on the record has been cut as follows: Originally figures 1, 2, and 4, were danced through twice (twice for heads and twice for sides). Repeat these bands of music if you want to do this. In figure 5, we have omitted the music for the fourth couple's part, even though it is in the cues. If you want to have the 4th couple dance this part, play the music from the beginning of the band (again) as soon as you have finished ALL FORWARD AND TURN PARTNERS at the end of the third couples' turn.

THE GRAND SQUARE:

Stand in regular sets as in square dancing.

A. Heads go into the center (4 counts). Turn 1/4, take hands with the opposite and back out to the side pos (4 counts). Turn 1/4, face the opposite and back up to the corner of the set (4 counts). Turn 1/4 and walk fwd to the original pos, facing partner (4 counts).

B. Face partner, back up (away from partner) to corner of the square (4 counts). Turn 1/4 and move fwd on the outside of the square to meet opposite (4 counts). Turn 1/4 and move fwd with opposite to the center of the set (4 counts). Turn 1/4 and back up with partner to place (4 counts).

While the head couples are doing A. the side couples are doing B.
While the head couples do B., the side couples do A.