

VIRGINIA REEL

LS E-12 Little Brown Jug

Formation: Contra formation; four or five couples in a set. Boys are on the teacher's right, girls on his/her left. Partners face each other, about six feet apart.

DANCE

Counts

8 HONOR YOUR PARTNER – all take four steps forward with a bob-bow on the fourth step; all take four steps back to place;

8 HONOR AGAIN – four steps forward with a bob-bow on the 4th, four steps back to place;

8 RIGHT HAND SWING – partners walk forward, join right hands, walk around each other, then back to place;

8 LEFT HAND SWING – partners walk forward, join left hands, walk around each other, then back to place;

8 DO-SA-DO – partners walk forward, pass right shoulders, step sideways back-to-back around partner, then back into place;

8 FIRST COUPLE SASHAY DOWN THE HALL – head couple joins both hands and slides down the center of the set to the foot;

8 SASHAY BACK – same couple slides back to the head of the set;

8 FOLLOW THE LEADER – everyone faces the head of the set.

First (head) boy turns left, the first girl turns right, they lead their lines to the foot of the set. The head couple forms an arch, and those

following walk around them and under the arch. Each couple, after going under the arch, joins both hands and slides back to place. There is now a new head couple and the original first couple is at the foot of the set

The dance should be repeated until each couple has been a head couple. Finish with a bow to partner.

Note: The timing on the “Follow the Leader” part is indefinite. Wait until all have reached their places before beginning the dance again. It is not necessary to limit the set to a definite number of couples but the sets should be about equal in number to ensure that everyone is ready to dance the figure at about the same time.

This is a simplified version of the Virginia Reel. The “reel” itself is explained in the dances “Thady You Gander” and “Weaver's Reel.”