

NARRAGANSETT WALTZ (German Waltz) Contra Dance

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

NARRAGANSETT WALTZ.

First couple join right hands and swing once and a half round, join hands with second couple — balance four in a line, swing opposite with left hand — balance again swing with right hand — four waltz.

Either or all of the above can end with "all Waltz" or all Polka round the Hall.

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1858 • Elias Howe • HOWE'S COMPLETE BALL-ROOM HAND-BOOK • Boston

*GERMAN WALTZ.

First couple join right hands and swing once and a half round, join hands with second couple — balance four in a line, swing opposite with left hand — balance again, swing with right hand — four waltz.

**(Form as for common Contra Dance.)*

1862 • Elias Howe • AMERICAN DANCING MASTER, AND BALL-ROOM PROMPTER • Boston

This ends with "four waltz," presumably to progress. Therefore it is likely a duple set with the top couples crossed over, in the tradition of the Spanish Dance.

- A1** First couple join R hands and swing twice around, slightly progressing down the set between the second couple, ending by joining L hands with that second couple. [8 bars]
- A2** Hands 4-in-line, balance to 2nd, to partner, to 2nd, to partner. [4]
Swing 2nd a full turn by the L hand. [4]
- B1** Hands 4-in-line, balance to partner, to balance 2nd, to partner, to 2nd. [4]
First couple swing by the right hand, slightly moving back up the set. 2nd couple advance to take waltz position on the final 2 bars. The gents are back-to-back with each other at the end.
- B2** Couples waltz once and a half around each other to progress, as in the Spanish Dance. [8]

If this follows the tradition of the Spanish Dance, all couples may commence at the same time.

Other interpretations are always possible.