

THE ROYAL HORSE GUARD QUADRILLES

Published by G. André, Philadelphia, 1859

Reconstruction by Richard Powers

The May 25, 1859 *Spirit of the Age* newspaper from Raleigh, North Carolina advertises music for, "Royal Horse Guard Quadrilles with full description of Figures. [Companion to Lancers Quadrilles.](#)"

This reconstruction is an **itinerant dance master version**. Traveling dance masters had to work with local orchestras who already had their own music. This quadrille was described as a companion to the Lancers, and indeed follows that prototype. But the 1st and 4th figures have 4 parts, whereas the Lancers has 3 parts, so the local orchestra's music would be too short to fit those figures. I believe this quadrille was designed with that reality in mind, because both the 1st and 4th figures end with a balance and turn, almost superficially tacked on to the end of the figure, which is easily omitted if it's Lancers music. This reconstruction is to fit Lancers music, but you should add a balance and turn to figures 1 and 4 to dance the exact Royal Horse Guards. It's a small change.



This is different from Elias Howe's RHGQ.

The original description is on page 3.

FIGURE 1

Bars

- 4 Head couples Half Right & Left (Chaine Anglaise) to cross over.
- 4 Turn corners CW by open 2-hands.
- 4 Half Right & Left to places.
- 4 Turn corners.

- 4 Head Ladies Chain 3/4 of a moulinet, to turn the gent who was her original right corner by the L hand.
- 4 Heads turn partners by the R hand, to places.

The side couples do the same. (The directions don't say that the opposite head couple commences next.)

FIGURE 2

- 8 (Music intro, no bows)
- 4 Head couples forward and back.
- 2 Head couples forward toward the left side couples, picking up the side lady.
- 2 And back as trios with the side ladies, possibly turning the ladies under, as in the Graces.
- 2 All 8 forward (side gents singly).
- 2 And side gents back with both ladies, possibly turning the ladies under.
- 2 All 8 forward (head gents singly).
- 2 And all back with partners.

- 4 All turn corners by the L hand.
- 4 All turn partners by the R hand.

The side couples do the same.

FIGURE 3

- 8 (Music intro, no bows)
- 4 Head couples forward and back.
- 2 Ladies forward (possibly with a waltz step) and turn to the left to face partner.
- Hold* Elaborate courtsey and bow. Then ladies do something individual in the last 4 counts.
- 4 Still facing partners, heads chasse 3 slides and close to the right, and chasse 3 slides to the left.
- 4 Head couples turn partners to places.

The side couples do the same.

FIGURE 4

- 8 (Music intro, no bows)
- 4 Head couples promenade toward the right then around each other in the center of the set, ending facing each other, back in their places.
- 4 Side couples promenade to the right and line up behind that couple. (These two figures work together well if the head couple acknowledges the side couple that were at their left, as they pass by, inviting them to follow behind.)
- 4 The two couples advance up the center then cast off, splitting away from partners, to form the Ring — circular paths in their own quadrant. Acknowledge your opposite dancers as you roll away from them.
- 4 Trace the Ring a second time, for another semi-circle, with the head dancers going to the empty four corners of the quadrille, sides ending in side positions (but possibly crossed over), forming 2 lines.
- 4 Lines forward eight and back.
- 4 Turn partners to places. (Side dancers who are already in place let their partners come to them.)

The side couples do the same.

Note: These 4 figures can be danced 2x instead of 4x, and likely would have been done only 2x, since couples don't have individual solos. But the itinerant dance master version must be 4x, to fit traditional Lancers music.

FIGURE 5

- 1 (Fanfare chord)
- 16 Grand chain. Ladies end in the center, facing outward to their partners.
- 4 All balance.
- 4 Ladies turn the gent of the side couple who had been to her right (i.e., her corner).
[Alternate interpretation: it might possibly mean the gent *currently* to her right.]
- 4 All balance.
- 4 Ladies turn the next gent.
- 4 All balance.
- 4 Ladies turn the next gent.
- 4 All balance.
- 4 Ladies turn their partners.
- 16 Grand chain. Gents end in the center, facing outward to their partners.
- 32 Gents to the same progression that the ladies did.
- 16 Grand chain.

ROYAL HORSE GUARD QUADRILLE FIGURES.

FIGURE 1.

1. Half right & left. (4 bars.)
2. Turning corners. (4 bars.)
3. Half right & left to places. (4 bars.)
4. Turning corners. (4 bars.)

Ladies chain once with the Gentleman of side couples and turning to place with the partner by right hand. 8.

6. All balance to corners. (4 bars.)
 7. Turn corners. (4 bars.)
- (The side couple the same.)

FIGURE 2.

1. Forward four & back. (4 bars.)
 2. Four to the left & back with Ladies of the side couples. (4 bars.)
 3. Forward eight & Ladies back with the Gentleman of the sides. (4 bars.)
 4. Forward eight and all Ladies back with partner. (4 bars.)
 5. Turning round with corner partner by left hand, to place with partner by right hand. (8 bars.)
- (The side couple the same.)

FIGURE 3.

1. Forward four and back. (4 bars.)
2. Forward four, Ladies turn to the left and take place in face of the partner. Courtsey and bow. (4 bars.)
3. Chasse to the right & left. (4 bars.)

4. Turning to places. (4 bars.)
- The side couple the same.

FIGURE 4.

1. First and second Couple promenade around each other to the centre taking position facing at their places. (4 bars.)
 2. Side Couples promenade to the right and take place behind the other Couple. (4 bars.)
 3. Ring to the outside from the centre by each two Couples marching up to the same and forming two lines. 4.
 4. Forward eight and back. (4 bars.)
- Turning to places. (4 bars.)
5. All balance. (4 bars.)
 6. Turning round. (4 bars.)

FIGURE 5.

1. Grand chain by ending the chain the Ladies take place in the square facing to the partners (16 bars.)
2. All balance (4 bars.)
3. Ladies turn round with the Gentleman of the Couples to the right (4 bars.)
4. All balance & Ladies turn with the next Gentleman to the right (8 bars.) The same again (8 bars.) The same again; Ladies turn with partners. Grand chain. Gentleman the same under 2.3.4.5.6. Grand Chain.