

WALTZ VIRGINIA REEL

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

The Virginia Reel (American version of Sir Roger de Coverly) was normally danced in 4/4 Reel time. A mid-19th century Philadelphia dance manual suggested that it can be danced in 3/4 waltz time.

4 couples in Longways (contradance) Formation, women on the right if facing the top of the hall.

Measures

Facing partner and taking hands 4-in-line:

- 2 All advance to partners with 1 walking waltz step forward and a waltz balance step in place.
- 2 All waltz and balance step backwards.
- 4 All fwd again giving partner both hands, turning halfway CW, and falling back to the other side.
- 8 Repeat to places.

- 4 Top man and bottom lady (First Diagonals) advance [2bars] and bow to each other [2 bars].
- 4 They retire to places at the same time as the Second Diagonals advance and bow to each other.
- 4 First diagonals advance to turn each other by the right hands.
- 4 Second diagonals advance to turn each other by the right hands.
- 4 First diagonals advance to turn each other by the left hands.
- 4 Second diagonals advance to turn each other by the left hands.
- 4 First diagonals advance to turn each other by both hands.
- 4 Second diagonals advance to turn each other by both hands.
- 4 First diagonals advance to Do-si-do each other (by the right shoulder).
- 4 Second diagonals advance to Do-si-do each other.
- 4 First diagonals advance to Reverse Do-si-do each other (by the left shoulder)
- 4 Second diagonals advance to Reverse Do-si-do each other.

- 24 The active (top) couple turn each other in the center by the right hand, once-and-a-half around
They turn the next top person on the opposite side by the left hand, once around.

Continue this "Strip the Willow" figure down the hall.

Active couple turn each other by the right hand in the center, at the bottom, and take waltz position.

- 4 Active couple waltzes up the center of the set to the top.
- 4 They cast individually down the outside of the set, to the bottom, as the others move up one place.

When all have finished the figure, everyone waltzes with partners around the room.