

Auld Mahoun's Revenge

or The Exciseman Returned

- Dance for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set 8x40 bar Reel
- 1-4 1st couple cast off 1 place and turn right hand once round. Remain facing out ready for...
- 5-8 1st couple cast round the person on their right (3rd corner, or partner's 1st corner) to finish in lines of three across the dance, 1st man between 2nd couple facing down, and 1st lady between third couple facing up; all set.
- 9-16 1st man with 2nd couple and 1st lady with 3rd couple dance reels of three across the dance, 1st couple giving right shoulder to the person on their right to begin. At the end, 1st couple pass left shoulder to face 1st corner.
- 17-20 1st couple set to 1st corner and turn them both hands to finish in lines of three across the dance, 1st lady between 2nd couple facing down, and 1st man between third couple facing up.
- 21-24 In the lines of three, all advance and retire.
- 25-32 1st lady with 2nd couple and 1st man with 3rd couple dance reels of three across the dance, 1st couple again giving right shoulder to the person on their right to begin. At the end, 1st couple pass left shoulder to face 2nd corner.
- 33-36 1st couple set to 2nd corner and turn them both hands to finish in lines of three on the sides, 1st couple in second place on the opposite side of the dance.
- 37-40 In the lines of three, 2s, 1s and 3s advance, 1st couple swiftly change places giving both hands, and all retire.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Note: The phrasing of the first four bars is deliberately left ambiguous.

*The deil cam fiddlin' through the toon an' he danced awa' wi' th'exciseman,
and ilka wife cried "Auld Mahoon, I wish ye luck o' the prize, man!"*

*The deil's awa', the deil's awa', the deil's awa' wi' th'exciseman.
He's danced awa', he's danced awa', he's danced awa' wi' th'exciseman.*

I wrote this dance for the tune *The Deil's Awa' Wi' th'Exciseman* after hearing Iain MacPhail play his set *The Deil's Conundrum* on the regular Radio Scotland programme *Take the Floor*. I have since learned that there are several dances to this tune, called either by the full name of the tune or by the shortened form "The Deil's Awa'," so I decided to call this one "Auld Mahoun's Revenge" instead. It is a lively dance, as befits a dance with the devil.

Tune: The Deil's Awa' Wi' th'Exciseman (Traditional)

(cc) Ian Brockbank, August 1996