

Nifty Shiftin'

Dance for 3 couples in a 4 couple longwise set

8x32 bar Reel

Note: Throughout the description I will refer to "in" and "out". "In" means towards the middle of the dance (ie down from 1st place and up from 4th place) and "out" means away from the middle of the dance (up from 2nd place and down from 3rd place).

This dance has two chords. On the second chord, 3rd and 4th couples change sides.

- 1-4 1st and 4th couples cross over giving right hands and cast in. 2nd and 3rd couples step out on bars 3 and 4.
- 5-8 1st and 4th couples turn half way giving left hands and melt into left hands across half way. Finish in a St. Andrews cross formation, left hands joined in the centre, right hands joined with corners.
- 9-16 1st and 4th couples dance a double spoke - set joining hands with each corner in turn, rotating one place anticlockwise each time (2 bars per corner).
- 17-20 4th man followed by 4th lady dances out the men's side and casts up **while** 1st man followed by 1st lady dances out the ladies' side and casts off **while** 2nd and 3rd couples cross over giving right hands and set. Finish with 4th couple side by side at the top of the dance, facing down, and 1st couple side by side at the bottom, facing up, men on the left of their partners.
- 21-22 All change place with the facing person giving right hands (2L with 3L, 4L with 1M, 4M with 1L, 2M with 3M).
- 23-24 1st lady followed by 1st man cast to their right and off **while** 4th lady followed by 4th man cast to their right and up **while** 3rd and 2nd couples set. Finish with (from 1M position) 3L, 4L, 4M, 2L facing 3M, 1M, 1L, 2M.
- 25-26 All cross with the facing person giving right hands.
- 27-28 1st man followed by 1st lady cast up and to their right **while** 4th man followed by 4th lady cast off and to their right **while** 3rd and 2nd couples set. Finish with 1st couple side by side at the top of the dance, facing down, and 4th couple side by side at the bottom, facing up, men on the left of their partners.
- 29-30 All change place with the facing person giving right hands (3M with 2M, 1L with 4M, 1M with 4L, 3L with 2L).
- 31-32 4th and 1st couples separate and cast off or up respectively **while** 2nd and 3rd couples set.

Finish in the order 2,4,1,3 ready to start again.

For Brian and Clare East, our role models. Brian suggested the title to me at the New Scotland Annual Ball at the end of January, 1999, and the tune Tam Lin fitted the name, but it took me more than a year to find the steps to go with them.

This dance was published in "Dance On!" in April 2005.

Tune: Tam Lin

(F. Furey)

Nifty Shiftin

Tam Lin

Howling Wind

