

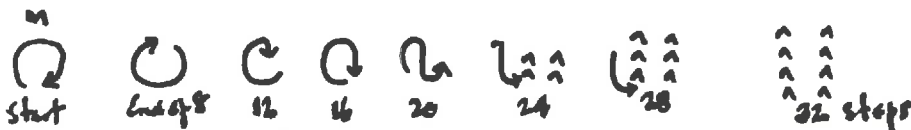
ISLE ON MAN / SERVANTS HIRING DANCE

Source: Woodfidley. Women used to do this at the Hiring Fairs each year.
 Music: slowish jig like Peter O'Tavy in quality.

Start: Assume 8 dancers. Form an almost complete circle, all facing clockwise, with knuckle of left hand on hip and right hand up at side above head level, palm inwards. The left hand can also grasp the skirt and use this to manipulate the skirt in the dance, take hold about half way down the skirt and lift it on the left side to show petticoats.

1. Dance round the circle clockwise. 4 steps with out a spring, starting with the right, and swinging the free foot so that the heel comes back to outside of shin of supporting foot on the off beat - but no hops. This is very steady, step forward on the right, left foot in air forward, back across shin & forward again for the next step. Set moves round circle in jerks. Then 4 similar steps but with definite hops on the off beats. Repeat this sequence of 4 without & 4 with 4 times in all - 32 steps.

The path is round the circle for 8 steps, then the leader goes down the middle, turns to left to face up at the bottom & the dancers come up 2 by 2 to form a column and turn in on the hop of the 32 step to face opposite.



2. In lines of 4 facing. both arms up, curved, palms inward. Peter O'Tavy like stepping. Stand on left foot & swing the right foot, forward, back across the left shin, forward again but diagonally to the right & bring the feet together side by side. Raise the body by going up onto the toes on each swing. Repeat with left foot, standing on the right. All turn clockwise twice on the spot, right foot lead & bring left up behind in the turn. This also takes 4 beats so 12 in all. Repeat starting other foot & turning the other way twice. End with the top pair facing down and the others facing up.

Take 4 beats to move out into a quadrille set. The top and bottom pairs just dance 2 Manx reel steps - 1 2 3 hop, crossing the free foot over the supporting shin. The 2nd/3rd pairs slip to their sides and turn the easy way to face across the set using a Manx sidestep. (like an Irish seven).

3. Grand Chain: All start by a right hand turn of partner once round with 2 Manx steps both hands up, curved arms. Each change of Grand Chain is done by two pas de basque, to the right and to the left, and pass right shoulders, turning body so that right shoulder is leading and almost passing back to back with one Manx reel step leading with the right foot. The next change is a pas de basque to left and right and pass left shoulders, left shoulder leading etc. Assume that tune for this part is in 3 bar phrases. Passes in all to go all the way round.

4. Facing one's partner, all turn in to face around to bottom thus, revert to the stepping of the initial dance round (1), cross at the bottom and move to form a horseshoe facing the audience.

