

Lancers

Formation – Quadrille set

1st Figure

	Bars
Introduction – salute your partners. Salute your corners.	8
1 st lady & 2 nd man swing in the centre. Partners cross over (by left of swinging couple in the centre). As he finishes swinging, 1 st man joins his partner.	16
1 st couple lead through 2 nd couple back to places & swing corners.	16
	32
Repeat with 2 nd lady & 1 st man swinging, then 2 nd couple lead back etc.	32
Repeat with 3 rd lady & 4 th man swinging, then 3 rd couple lead back etc.	32
Repeat with 4 th lady & 3 rd man swinging, then 4 th couple lead back etc.	32
	128
2nd Figure	
Introduction	4
1 st couple lead up, retire & swing	16
Sides divide. Form top & bottom lines, lines advance & retire twice	8
Advance and swing partners to place	8
	32
Repeat with 2 nd couple leading up. Top & bottom lines, etc.	32
Repeat with 3 rd couple leading up. Side lines, etc.	32
Repeat with 4 th couple leading up. Side lines, etc.	32
	128
3rd Figure	
Introduction	4
Ladies advance to centre, curtsy & retire. Advance again, men following.	8
Ladies curtsy under men's raised arms; form a basket. (By the ladies putting their arms in over the men's joined arms & clasping other ladies' hands firmly). All circle left, moving back into original places as they finish circling.	8
Men advance to centre, & bow. Men's left hands across (form a star by taking a hand-shake hold with the opposite man) and with right arms around partners' waists; promenade round, finishing back in original places.	16
	32
Repeat figure again.	32

4 th Figure	Bars
Introduction	4
1 st & 2 nd couples visit right & left. (ie walk across to right couples, salute with a bob bow & walk on the left couples, salute & perform the next steps in two groups of four.	8
Right hands across. Ladies' hands above men's – dancers face clockwise & take 8 steps in a circle	4
Left hands across & circle anticlockwise.	4
Both hands across. Men's arms under, ladies' on top, facing inwards, basket left with 16 small steps, one foot advanced.	8
Basket right	8
Join hands & circle left with skipping steps or springy walk	8
Circle right finishing in places.	8
	48
Repeat 3 rd & 4 th couples visit right, etc.	48
Repeat 1 st & 2 nd couples visit left, etc.	48
Repeat 3 rd & 4 th couples visit left, etc.	48
	192
5 th Figure	
Long introductory note only.	
Right hands to partners, grand chain half way, bow when meet partner	8
Promenade ACW to places with partner & finish with a short swing.	8
1 st couple lead up & retire. Face outwards (changing lady over to right). Fall in, 1 st , 3 rd , 4 th & 2 nd couple at end of line	8
Lines cast off, come up centre forming side lines	8
Side lines advance & retire twice, advance & swing partners back to original places	16
	48
Repeat grand chain etc. 2 nd couple lead up & retire, face outwards. Fall in, 2 nd , 4 th , 3 rd , 1 st . Cast off, side lines etc.	48
Repeat grand chain etc. 3 rd couple lead up & retire, face outwards. Fall in, 3 rd , 2 nd , 1 st , 4 th . Cast off, top & bottom lines, etc.	48
Repeat grand chain etc. 4 th couple lead up & retire, face outwards. Fall in 4 th , 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd . Cast off, top & bottom lines etc.	48
Coda: Grand chain, promenade & swing partners to finish.	32
	224

This version of the Lancers was done at Nariel in North-Eastern Victoria in the 1890's. More recently a different version of the 3rd figure has been adopted there, omitting the basket. That version is done in parts of the Western district, but the basket is retained in central areas with a simplified way of circling up. Also, the 4th figure may be shortened.

Many MC's used to get the band to play lively music to encourage dancers to get up for the Lancers, and some would also have the dancers promenading around the hall both before and after this quadrille.

It is only this Nariel version that includes this promenade after a grand chain half-way round. It is more usually done as a grand chain right round to places, followed by a short swing. Arrangements of music will be found in *Collector's Choice*, Volume 2.

*This information is taken from **Two Hundred Dancing Years** by Shirley Andrews & Peter Ellis*

(Description provided by Gwen Burke.)