

The Durrow Threshing Set

Róisín and I accompanied the late Connie Ryan and Betty Mc Coy to record this set as danced by the Durrow Set Dancers from County Laois. After long days threshing a farmer would have organised a 'ceili' for the neighbours and those who helped with the threshing. This set would have been danced on these occasions. A battering step is danced in the first and last figures of the set.

	Figure 1 Jigs	(Polka Step)	184 Bars
(a)	Long lead around; All take right hand in right hand; lead on one position and batter two bars on the spot. Repeat the movement three times finishing back in own position.		16 Bars
(b)	Top gents turn the lady four times; Top gents with right hand in right hand, turn the lady four times as she moves around the inside of the set. Gents stay behind the ladies.		8 Bars
(c)	Top couples advance and batter, retire and batter; Top couples advance and batter. Retire and batter, as they are battering they turn to lead around position and gents give left hands in centre.		8 Bars
(d)	Lead around and turn the lady; Top couples lead on one position, as the gents batter the ladies turn once in place , gents bring the hand back down. Repeat this movement three more times until back at home. (Gents finish with their back to centre).		16 Bars
(e)	Swing; Top couples swing in ceili hold.		8 Bars
(f)	Side couples repeat (b) - (e);		40 Bars
(g)	Top couples repeat (b) - (e);		40 Bars
(h)	Side couples repeat (b) - (e); All swing to finish.		40 Bars
	 Figure 2 Polkas		 136 Bars
(a)	Top couples house around;		8 Bars
(b)	Top ladies' chain; Top ladies chain, right hand in centre, left arm to opposite gent, who turns with the lady, right arm in centre again and left arm to own partner. Gents slow up and do not turn as they dance into the centre.		8 Bars
(c)	First top gent and second top lady swing in centre; First top gent and second top lady dance to centre and swing. They finish facing their own partner and dance back to place in a line of four and swing in ceili hold. Finish swing in own position.		16 Bars
(d)	Side couples dance (a) - (c); First side couple are on the right.		32 Bars
(e)	Top couples dance (a) - (c); Second top gent and first lady swing in the centre.		32 Bars
(f)	Side couples dance (a) - (c); All swing to finish. Second side gent and first side lady swing in the centre.		32 Bars

	Figure 3 Polkas	264 Bars
(a)	Top couples house around;	8 Bars
(b)	Arches; Top couples, taking partners' nearest hand, dance the arches. First tops form the arch on the way across. All drop hands and turn in to face partner. Second tops form the arch on the way back. All turn in again.	8 Bars
(c)	Top ladies' chain; Top ladies chain right hand in the centre, left arm to opposite gent, who turns with the lady. Top ladies dance back to place and first top lady turns in to stand beside her partner, who takes her right hand in his over her right shoulder.	8 Bars
(d)	Second top couple swing across and drop the lady; Second top couple in ceili hold swing across the set and drop the lady off on the left of first top gent, in a line of three. First top gent takes second top lady's left hand over her left shoulder. Second gent takes the two ladies' free hands in front.	8 Bars
(e)	Advance and retire and swing in four; Dancers advance to second tops position, second gent pulls the ladies' hands and the ladies turn in beside him. Advance again and first gent pulls the ladies' hands. Ladies turn into swing in four. Ladies' hands are on gents' shoulders.	16 Bars
(f)	Top ladies' chain and swing; Top ladies chain right hand in the centre, left arm to opposite gent and dance back to their own partner and swing.	16 Bars
(g)	Side couples repeat (a) - (f); First sides on right, second sides swing across the set.	64 Bars
(h)	Top couples repeat (a) - (f); First top couple will swing across at (d).	64 Bars
(i)	Side couples repeat (a) - (f); All swing to finish. First side couple will swing across at (d)	64 Bars

	Figure 4 Hornpipes	152 Bars
(a)	Top couples house to opposite, double back to place, gents cross, clap and stamp; Top couples house to opposite and double back to place (4 bars). Gents dance straight across left shoulder to left shoulder, to opposite lady. All clap and stamp.	8 Bars
(b)	Top couples repeat (a) back to place;	8 Bars
(c)	Top couples repeat (a) and (b);	16 Bars
(d)	Top couples house to opposite and double back to place;	4 Bars
(e)	Side couples repeat (a) - (d);	36 Bars
(f)	Top couples repeat (a) - (d);	36 Bars
(g)	Side couples repeat (a) - (d);	36 Bars

Figure 5 Polkas		144 Bars
(a)	Top couples house around;	8 Bars
(b)	Top couples advance and retire, side couples advance and retire; All gents' place their arms around their ladies' waists. Top couples advance and retire twice. Starting two bars behind top couples side couples advance and retire twice.	8 Bars
(c)	Top couples lead across, side couples lead across; Top couples lead across (4 bars) and turn anti-clockwise into place. Side couples lead across and turn into place.	8 Bars
(d)	All couples repeat (b) - (c); All couples repeat (b) and (c) finishing back in their own position.	16 Bars
(e)	Top ladies' chain, side ladies' chain; Top ladies chain right hand in centre, left arm to opposite gent and dance back to their own partner. Side ladies begin the chain two bars behind top ladies and dance back to place.	8 Bars
(f)	Reverse the lady and turn in place; All couples begin in waltz hold; the lady has her back to the next position on the right. All gents reverse the lady (2 bars) and all couples turn once in the new position. Repeat this movement three times until back at home.	16 Bars
(g)	All couples repeat (a) - (f) with sides leading; All couples repeat (a) - (f). Side couples house around at (a) and side couples lead the advance and retire and lead across.	64 Bars
(h)	All swing; All couples swing to finish in ceili hold.	8 Bars

Figure 6 Jigs		(Polka Step)	152 Bars
(a)	Circle and swing; All couples take hands in circle, advance and retire twice. Advance battering and retire dancing one and two and one two three. All swing.		16 Bars
(b)	All couples lead around; All gents take arm around ladies' waists. Lead on one position and batter two bars on the spot. Repeat until back to place.		16 Bars
(c)	Circle, ladies move on and swing; Taking hands in a circle, all advance (battering) and retire. Advance again and as the gents retire, the ladies move on position to their right and swing new partner.		16 Bars
(d)	All couples repeat (b) - (c) three times; All couples repeat (b) and (c) finishing back in their own position.		96 Bars