

Pavonis Mons

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a four couple longwise set.

I am one of those who think the RSCDS made a mistake in naming the signature figure from Linnea's Strathspey as a "Three Couple Chain Progression". It is really a two couple chain progression with the outer pair of dancers accompanied by 1st couple taking them in promenade hold. Reels of three do not get renumbered if some of those involved in the reel are couples in promenade hold. This dance was written to include a truly three couple chain progression. Like the three couple Bourrel it results in losing one's partner - or regaining them if they have already been lost in the right way as in this dance. This figure has been used by Iain Boyd (The Copper Beech, 2017) and also proposed by Ed McIntosh.

Searching for a showy title with some reference to "three" and "chain" I remembered the linear chain of three massive shield volcanoes on the Tharsis plateau on Mars. Pavonis Mons, which means Peacock Mountain in English, is the central peak - and also the smallest, being a mere one and a half times the height of Earth's puny Mount Everest.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st couple cross over giving right hands and cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.
- 5-8 1st couple dance half a figure of eight out the end to their right, left shoulder round their 3rd corner, to end on the centre line, 1st man above 1st woman.
- 9-12 1st man with 2nd couple, and 1st woman with 3rd couple, dance left hands across ending on the sidelines. 1st and 2nd men face down, 1st and 3rd women face up.
- 13-16 1st man followed by 2nd man dance in tandem right shoulder around 3rd man to change places. 1st woman followed by 3rd woman dance similarly around 2nd woman.
The order is now 1,2,3 on the men's side and 2,3,1 on the women's side.
- 17-24 All dance a truly three couple chain progression:
 - 1-2: All turn the opposite person three quarters with the right hand to the centre line.
 - 3-6: 2nd woman and 3rd man dance half way round clockwise to the other end of the centre line. Meanwhile 1st man with 3rd woman, and 2nd man with 1st woman, turn one and a half times with the left hand to change places.
 - 7-8: All turn their partner three quarters with the right hand into allemande hold facing up.
- 25-32 All dance a three couple allemande to end in the order 2,1,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: Kirk's Hornpipe (Traditional).
- Suitable recording: Still Buzzing (Robert Whitehead and The Danelaw Scottish Country Dance Band: The Geordie Diamond 1950-2010)