

The Tower of London

A 32 bar strathspey for four couples in a square set.

The figure in bars 17-24 is supposed to evoke the central “White Tower” part of the Tower of London with a small tower at each corner all surrounded by an outer wall. The two handed turns represent the towers while the intervening inner and outer chases are the walls. Three of the four towers are square - only the one at the north-east corner (between 1st and 2nd places) is round. So those concerned with architectural exactitude can make their turns at the other corners as square as possible, for example making angles at the half bar points. Those keen on symbolism may see sceptres and orbs or loops of a crown in bars 1-8 and 9-12. Bars 25-32 were inspired by the end of Vana Tallinn by Vladimir Garbuzov.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st and 3rd couples set advancing, then half turn the opposite person with both hands opening out, tourbillon style, so the women are back in their original places but the men have changed places.
- 5-8 2nd and 4th couples repeat bars 1-4.
- 9-12 All set and pull left shoulder back to cast in tandem one place anticlockwise. The men are now in places 4,1,2,3 and the women 2,3,4,1.
- 13-16 All dance set and link. The men end back to back on the diagonals facing out to the women who end at the corners of the square facing in. 1st man is facing out to 2nd woman in the corner between 1st and 2nd places.
- 17-20 All half turn with both hands. The men then dance on to the next corner clockwise while the women dance half way round the inner square anticlockwise, making a quarter turn angle at the corner. They end facing out to their partner with 1st couple now at the corner between 2nd and 3rd places.
- 21-24 All repeat bars 17-20 from new places to end facing the same person as at bar 17 but now progressed one corner position anticlockwise from where they started.
- 25-28 All turn with both hands opening out to the next side. The women then chase one place clockwise while the men curve to their right into the centre and end taking right hands with their partner in the original order 1,2,3,4 facing clockwise, with the men on the inside.
- 29-32 All lead on one place clockwise then turn their partner three quarters with the right hand to end in the order 4,1,2,3.

Music

- Suggested tune: A Glint of Gold (Drummond Cook).
- Suitable recording: A Glint of Gold (Colin Dewar & his SDB: A' the best fae Banffshire).

Diagrams (music at the bottom)

Bar 9	Bar 13	Bar 17	Bars 19-20	Bar 21
Bars 23-24	Bar 25	Bars 27-28	Bar 29	