

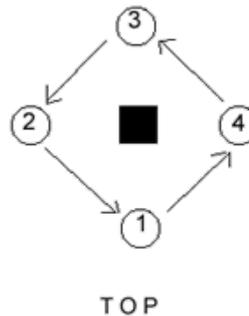
## THE TURTLE IN THE MARSH

Music: 40 bar jig tune played AABBB or AABBA.

Cootamundra is an aboriginal word meaning *The Turtle in the Marsh* (but the locals often refer to it, as *the frog in the bog!*)

4 girls stand on 4 corners of a diamond whilst a 5th girl (the turtle) stands in the centre.

Diagram 1 Bars 1-8



1 - 8 The outside girls dance round the set taking 2 steps to each side of the diamond whilst the "turtle" sets (using a highland setting step if she wishes) (See diagram 1)

9 -12 The "turtle" now faces 1st girl and joins nearer hands with girls 2 and 4 who face the opposite way. Girls 1 and 3 dance under these arches and round to their places commencing by passing the "turtle" by their left shoulders.

13-16 The "turtle" now faces the 4th girl and joins nearer hands with girls 1 and 3 who face the opposite way. Girls 2 and 4 dance under these arches and round to their places commencing by passing the "turtle" by their left shoulders. (see diagrams 2 and 3)

Diagram 2 Bars 9-12  
1st girl's track

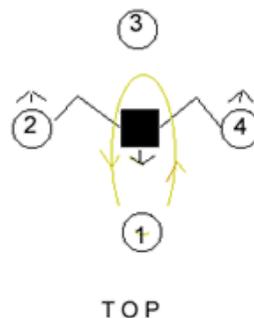
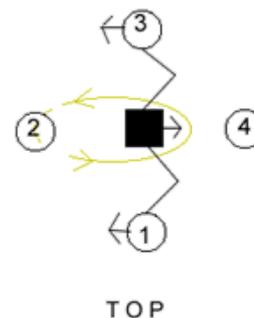


Diagram 3 Bars 13-16  
2nd girl's track



17-32 The "turtle" now dances right shoulder clover reels as follows:-

17-20 Half a reel of three with 1st and 3rd girls

21-24 Half a reel of three with the 4th and 2nd girls

25-28 Half a reel of three with the 1st and 3rd girls

29-32 Half a reel of three with the 4th and 2nd girls

33-34 The "turtle" changes places with 1st girl giving right hands

35-36 1st girl changes places with 2nd girl giving left hands

37-38 2nd girl changes places with 3rd girl giving right hands

39-40 3rd girl changes places with 4th girl giving left hands

The dance is now repeated with a new "turtle" in the middle each time for 4 more turns.

**St Columban Book** - Sheila Gradon