

Overland Telegraph

This is a Bush Dance commemorating one of Australia's greatest engineering feats, the construction of the Overland Telegraph between Adelaide and Darwin in 1872. (See Wikipedia, "Australia's Overland Telegraph Line".)

This dance is a quadrille, numbered anticlockwise, 1, 3, 2, 4.

32 bar reels x4, using skip-change steps, crossed hand swinging and bush-dance setting. The contra balance is danced by (with right hands joined) stepping toward partner on right foot, and dancing on the spot, left foot, right foot (1 bar) the stepping away from partner with the left foot and dancing on the spot, right foot, left foot (1 bar).

Description	Bars
1 st lady and opposite man advance and retire	4 bars
1 st Lady and opposite man advance (2 bar) and set (2 bar)	4 bars
1 st lady and opposite man right hand turn and keep right hands joined and give left hands to partner's left hand to create a wavy line of four (2 bars) and all four set (2 bars)	4 bars
1 st Lady and opposite man drop joined hands and both couples half left hand turn and rejoin hands in the centre to reform the wavy line of four (2 bars) and all four set (2 bars)	4 bars
1 st Lady and opposite man dance (solo) anticlockwise around the outside of the set and back to place Meanwhile 1 st man with Couple 4 and 2 nd Lady with Couple 3, right hand star once around then 1 st man with Couple 3 and 2 nd Lady with Couple 4, left hand star once around. (Note that after the right hand star 1 st man and 2 nd lady will cross right shoulder in the centre of the set without giving hands.) <i>These stars need to be danced without hesitation. The side couples can help by keeping the set small.</i>	8 bars
Everyone (ie ., All four couples) join right hands with partners and contra balance twice	4 bars
All four couples swing and reform the quadrille ready to start the dance sequence again.	4 bars
Total	32 bars

Repeat the sequence with the 2nd lady and opposite man leading, then 3rd lady and opposite man, then 4th lady and opposite man.