

## Son of a Motherless Goat

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

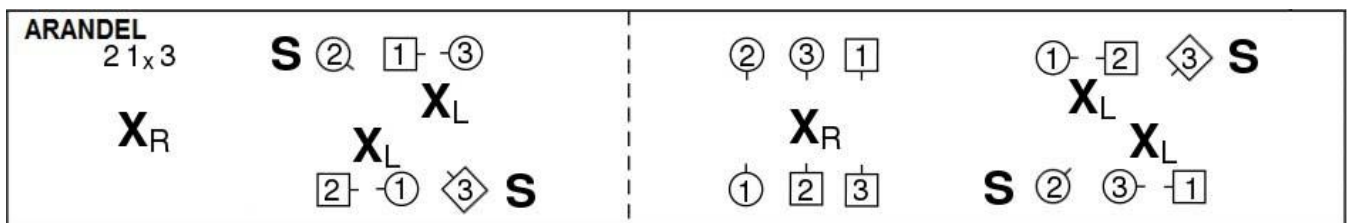
Bars	Description
1- 4	1st couple set and cast to second place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
5- 8	1st man dances a half figure of eight round 2nd couple while 1st woman dances a half figure of eight round 3rd couple.
9-16	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance an arandel. 1st woman omits polite turn. Men finish facing away from centre (2nd man and 3rd woman pivot while setting).
17-28	2nd and 1st and 3rd couples dance a ladies' chain for three couples. 1st man omits polite turn.
29-32	1st couple turn 1 1/2 times to own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Tom Halpenny, September 2024

Note: the arandel, with 2nd, (1st) and 3rd couples, is normally danced as follows:

- 1-2 2nd, (1st) and 3rd couples, giving right hands to partner, cross over to change sides.
- 3-4 2nd man and 3rd woman set to each other.  
2nd woman and 1st man, giving left hands, change places on the sideline.
- 1st woman and 3rd man, giving left hands, change places on the sideline.
- 5-6 All three couples, giving right hands to the dancer opposite,  
cross over to change sides.
- 7-8 2nd man and 3rd woman set.  
1st man and 2nd woman, giving left hands, change places on the sideline.
- 3rd man and 1st woman, giving left hands, change places on the sideline.
- All three couples are now back in their original places.
- On bar 8, 1st couple pull back by the left to dance into place (polite turn).



### 6.7.x Ladies' chain for three couples

This formation is danced by three couples. The starting position may vary, but the women always stand to the circular right of the men, often with 1st couple in second place on the opposite side.

**Steps:** 12 travelling steps

**No. of bars:** 12

Bars

- 1– 2 1st, 2nd and 3rd women dance right hands across halfway to men's places. At the same time, curving out to their right, 1st, 2nd and 3rd men dance towards the women's places.
- 3– 4 Giving left hands, 1st woman turns 1st man halfway, 2nd woman turns 3rd man halfway and 3rd woman turns 2nd man halfway.  
The women finish one third round clockwise and the men finish where they started, facing away from the centre.
- 5– 6 Repeat bars 1 and 2.
- 7– 8 Giving left hands, 1st woman turns 3rd man halfway, 2nd woman turns 2nd man halfway and 3rd woman turns 1st man halfway. The women finish two thirds round clockwise and the men finish where they started, facing away from the centre.
- 9–10 Repeat bars 1 and 2.
- 11–12 Giving left hands, 1st woman turns 2nd man halfway, 2nd woman turns 1st man halfway and 3rd woman turns 3rd man halfway.  
All finish in their starting positions.

**Note:** 1st, 2nd and 3rd men finish the final turn by pulling back by the left (polite turn).

The title **Son of a Motherless Goat** was inspired by a [scene](#) from the comedy movie ¡Three Amigos! when they insult El Guapo's men during what they believe to be a matinee performance.

Adaptation with ladies' chain – bars 17-28.

Bars	Description
1- 4	1st couple set and cast to second place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3-4.
5- 8	1st man dances a half figure of eight round 2nd couple while 1st woman dances a half figure of eight round 3rd couple.
9-16	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance an arandel. 2nd man (pivots while setting) and 1st man finish facing out.
17-24	2nd and 1st couples dance a ladies' chain.
25-28	2nd, 1st and 3rd couples advance and retire.
29-32	1st couple turn 1 1/2 times to own sides. Repeat, having passed a couple.