

The Virginia Reel
Dance Directions

Longways dance-two lines facing each other, right across from partner.

All the men on the right when looking down the hall, all the ladies on the right when looking down the hall

Forward 2, 3, bow

Back 2, 3, bow

Right-hand round 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Left-hand round 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Both hands round 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Do-si-do 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (a figure in which dancers pass right shoulders as they circle each other back to back)

Do-si-do 3, 4, 5, 6, 5, 8 (a figure in which dancers pass left shoulders as they circle each other back to back)

Top couple takes two hands and sashay (sideways gallop) 16 beats down the center of the set and back

Top couple “reel the set” (top couple only)--hook right elbows with partner, turn one and half times,

Top gent goes to the first lady in the lady’s line and top lady goes to the first gent in the gentleman’s line and they turn left elbows once around

Top man and woman meet again in the middle, turn right elbow once around with each other, then left elbow with the next person in line, etc.

Continue “right to your partner and left to the next” until the top couple has reeled all the way down the line. This takes about 48 beats or so...

Top couple then sashays up the middle to the top and separates from each other.

They “peel off” down the respective outside of the lines (men down the men’s side and ladies down the lady’s side) and go to the bottom and make a two-handed arch.

All the other couples follow them down to the bottom and up through the arch, leaving the top couple at the bottom and the second couple at the top ready to start the dance over.

**Check YouTube for music that the Virginia Reel may be danced to. Other examples are:
Battle of New Orleans
Turkey in the Straw**