

Key to Text Crib

MiniCrib

MiniCrib from Charles Upton and the MiniCrib Team are the cribs you'll most frequently see.

Please see <http://www.minicrib.org.uk/> about MiniCrib and how to produce your own crib sheets using it. They are regularly updated with the latest dances and corrections. Choose the 'Macro enabled ADVANCED database' version if you have Word 2000 or later.

This is a typical example

MAIRI'S WEDDING (R8x40) 3C (4C set) Cosh 22 SCDs
1- 8 1s turn RH & cast to 2nd place, 1s turn LH to face 1st corners
9-16 1s dance 1/2 diagonal reel of 4 with 1st corners, 1s dance 1/2 diagonal reel with 2nd corners
17-24 1s dance 1/2 diagonal reel with 3rd corner (pstns), 1/2 diagonal reel with 4th corner (pstns)
25-32 1s dance reel of 3 across (Lady with 2s, Man with 3s - LSh to 1st corner)
33-40 2s+1s+3s circle 6H round & back

The heading line contains the dance name, the type of the music and how many times it is repeated, the number of couples and shape of the set for the dance, the name of the devisor and where it was published. Here the dance is Mairi's Wedding. The music is for a Reel, of 8 times 40 bars. The dance is for 4 couples in a longwise set with 3 couples dancing each time through. Longwise is assumed for set – it could also be Sq.Set for a Square of 4 couples for instance. The dance was devised by James B. Cosh and appeared in "Twenty-Two Scottish Country Dances". Well actually it appeared in a much earlier "Six Scottish Country Dances" by him but let's not get into that!

This key to MiniCrib can be seen by entering ZZ for the dance and is shown below. Many dance figures are described in MiniCrib and a list can be seen by ZZ when selecting a dance, for instance "ZZ Rondel" outputs a description of the Rondel.

ZZ ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| ? | indicates optional action |
| Adv+Ret | advance and retire |
| B'tw'n | between |
| BtoB | back to back (couple with backs to each other) |
| cnr | corner |
| Fig(s) of 8 | Figure(s) of Eight |
| Diamond Poussette | Strathspey poussette (sometimes called all round poussette) |
| Double Fig of 8 | Double Figure of Eight |
| diag | Diagonal |
| J8x40 | 40 bar Jig danced 8 times |
| L | Lady |
| LH | left hand |
| LSh | left shoulder |
| M | Man |
| NHJ | Nearer hands joined |
| opp | opposite |
| PdB | pas de basque |
| prtnr | partner |
| pstn | position |
| Reflection Reel | Mirror Reel |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| R5x48 | 48 bar Reel danced 5 times |
| R&L | Rights & Lefts |
| RH | right hand |
| RSh | right shoulder |
| S3x32 | 32 bar Strathspey danced 3 times |
| RH across | Right Hands Across |
| LH across | Left Hands Across |
| 2H | Both Hands |
| Twirl | Turn Right (or Left) about - pull back RSh (or LSh) rotating to face opposite direction |
| Tandem Reel | Couple (one behind the other) dance a reel in Tandem with the same person leading |
| Alternating Tandem Reel | Couple (one behind the other) dance a reel in Tandem with the leading person alternating |

ZZ CORNERS

Corners are numbered anticlockwise thus 3rd corner is partner's 1st corner & 4th corner is Partner's 2nd corner

Cribs by Eric Ferguson

This is from <http://my.strathspey.org/u/anselm/stories/etf-cribs/>, Many of the cribs on the Strathspey Server at <http://my.strathspey.org/dd/index/> are by Eric Ferguson and they will appear in cribs on the web.

They differ most obviously from MiniCrib in using 1C instead of 1s for the first couple and 1W for first woman instead of 1L for the first lady.

Here is Eric Ferguson's crib for Mairi's Wedding

Mairi's Wedding

3/4L · R40

- 1- 1c turn RH | cast (2c up) ; turn LH to face 1cnrs
- 9- 1c ½Reel4 with 1cnrs (pass P Lsh) ; Repeat with 2cnrs
- 17- Repeat with 3cnrs (1cnr person) ; Repeat with 4cnrs (2cnr person)
- 25- 1W+2c & 1M+3c Reels3 across, Lsh to 1cnr
- 33- 2c+1c+3c circle6 and back

Note: Cosh explicitly tells 1c to pass Lsh in [9-24]; however the Rsh pass is quite common, and nicknamed »Mairi's Divorce«.

Abbreviations

Some abbreviations that are not immediately evident have been highlighted in bold below. Abbreviations may change between versions. I welcome suggestions for improving the system of abbreviations.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ½ | Half |
| 1- (etc) | Bar numbering. If no second bar number is shown, it is an 8-bar section |
| | separates 2-bar sections (but many older cribs still use a “;”) |
| ; | separates 4-bar sections. |
| or {n} | duration = that number of bars |
| 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, ... | 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th , 5th .. couples |
| 1M, 2W | 1st man, 2nd lady/woman, (As the RSCDS uses Woman, we use W; L always means Left). |

| | |
|--|--|
| 1M(1W) instruction down(up) | shorthand for 1M instruction down while 1W instruction up (used for »meanwhile« figures) |
| 1pl, 2pl, ... | 1st, 2nd, ... place. |
| 1plx, 2plx, | 1st, 2nd, ... place on opposite side |
| 1cnr, 2cnr | 1st, 2nd, corner »person« or »position« is added when needed. |
| 3cnr, 4cnr | Partner's 1st, 2nd corner |
| All | All those dancing, not all those in the set |
| P | Partner |
| R | Right |
| L | Left |
| RSh, LSh | right and left shoulders |
| clw, cclw | clockwise, counterclockwise = anticlockwise |
| LH, RH, NH, BH | Left, Right, Nearer and Both Hands |
| easy hand, EH | the evidently most convenient hand |
| LHJ, RHJ, NHJ, BHJ | Left, Right, Nearer and Both Hands Joined |
| lead vs dance | Strictly, »lead« means RHJ, »dance« NHJ. older RSCDS texts use »lead« for both; the correct formation is sometimes in doubt. Some cribs still have this ambiguity. |
| (2C up) | 2C step up |
| (2,3,4,1) or (to 2,3,4,1) (etc) | indicates the order of couples in the set at that point. |
| (2x,3x,4,1) | x indicates couples on opposite sides |
| BtoB | Back to Back as a position |
| dance BtoB | Dance Back to Back (the figure) |
| BiL | Balance in Line (i.e. setting in line; dancers facing alternate ways) |
| Circle_n_ (n=3,4,6,8,etc) | n hands round ; always starts to the left unless specified otherwise |
| A&R | advance and retire |
| Turn CPCP | turn 1st corner RH, Partner LH, 2nd corner RH, Partner LH |
| RHA, LHA | right hands across, left hands across |
| R&L | Rights and Lefts. |
| Diagonal R&L | (1C change places RH with 1cnr positions, LH on sides, RH with 4cnr positions, LH on sides) |
| S&Link | Set and Link (for two or three) |
| H.Schottische | Highland Schottische (setting step, poussette) |
| DTr | Double Triangles |

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| DDTr | Double Double Triangles (in a 5C set, above and below) |
| Set »H&G« | Set to Corners and Partner |
| Reel3 (Reel4) | Reel of three, (of four) (only one reel) |
| Reels3 (Reels4) | Reels of three, (of four) (two or more reels at the same time) (not yet put into all the cribs) |
| Reel3{6} | 6-bar reel of 3 (only one reel) |
| Reels3{6} | 6-bar reels of 3 (two or more reels at the same time) (not yet put into all the cribs) |
| Fig8 | Figure of eight |
| DbIFig8 | Double figure of 8 |
| Gr-Chain | Grand Chain |
| La-Chain | Ladies' Chain |
| M-Chain | Men's Chain |
| Teapots | 4-bar figure: 1M&1W, each with two others, dance Hands Across (R, L or Mirror) |
| PdB | Pas de Basque |
| promhold | promenade hold |

(Comments on the crib or the dance are added when needed as a final line.)

Most cribs are arranged in 8-bar phrases. That makes it much easier to 'see' and remember each 8-bar phrase as a 'chunk' of information. The signs ' | ; | ' subdivide the phrase, where necessary, into 2-bar bits.

The sign is used '+' for those dancing a figure together, and '&' or 'and' when two individuals/groups/pairs/dance the same figure simultaneously (eg: 1C+2C & 3C+4C RHA). Not all cribs follow this convention yet.

MAXICRIB

These cribs by Reuben Freemantle appear in the Scottish Country Dancing Dictionary at <http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/> . Please see <http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com/dance-cribs.html> for a short description of them and other cribs.

Other Lists of Abbreviations

<http://www.richmondscottishcountrydancers.org/cheat-sheet-abbreviations.html> from the Richmond VA Scottish Country Dancers.

<http://www.strathspey.org/hints/kwsProgram.html> Codes for Figures adapted from the Country Dance Index by Keith H Napier.

<http://www.derboy.webspace.virginmedia.com/netherlee07/page8.ht> Netherlee Scottish
Country Dance Club crib sheet abbreviations.