

CAYMAN ISLAND CONTRA  
By Don Armstrong

Formation: Contra lines, 1,4,7, etc. cpls active but not crossed over.

Music: Shaw 191

<u>Cts</u>	<u>Actions and explanations</u>
1-8	ACTIVES SWING -- Active cpls swing in the ctr, ending with W on ptr's R, facing down the set, inside hands joined.
9-16	ACTIVES DOWN AND WHEEL TURN -- Actives dance down four steps and wheel turn as a cpl in four more steps to face up, W on ptr's R.
17-24	BACK TO PLACE AND CAST OFF -- Actives dance up to place in four steps and cast off with the persons below in four more steps. The actives then take the persons on each side of them (the ones they cast off with and the one now below). <u>Progression</u> has been made, actives have moved down one place in line.
25-32	FORWARD SIX AND BACK -- With the actives in the ctr of the trios, with hands joined, trios dance three short steps fwd, bow to ptrs on fourth, and back up four steps into lines, then release hands.
33-40	ACTIVES DO SA DO -- Just the actives do sa do in the ctr.
41-48	OTHERS DO SA DO -- The inactives then do sa do in the ctr as the actives get set to
49-64	TURN CONTRA CORNERS -- The actives, facing across the set, have their ptrs directly across from them, a "R opp person" to their R of their ptr, and a "L opp person" to their L of their ptr. Actives dance by their ptr, joining R hands momentarily as they do so, to turn their R opp by the L hand. Actives then dance by their ptr again joining R hands momentarily as they do so, to turn their L opp by the L hand. Actives then return to place without touching their ptrs. The active M is always using R hands to pass by his ptr, and L hands to the R or L opp person. The "Pigeon Wing" handhold is a very comfortable one for this action, which normally takes 16 steps.

To prompt this dance:

Intro - - - -, Active couples swing in the center  
 1-8 - - - -, Put her on the R go down in twos  
 9-16 - - Wheel turn, - - come back to place  
 17-24 - - Cast off, with them and another forward six and back  
 25-32 - - - -, Just the actives do sa do  
 33-40 - - - -, Now the others do sa do  
 41-48 - - - -, Turn contra corners -  
 49-56 (Partner right right opp left, - - partner right)\* (Cadence calls)  
 57-64 (Left opp L)- -, - - actives swing (Start of next sequence).  
 \* Caller indicates ON AT THE HEAD every third sequence through the dance.

CAYMAN ISLAND CONTRA (continued)

As the dancers learn the figure, less prompting is necessary.  
For example:

57-64 - - - -, - - Actives swing  
 1-8 - - - -, - - Actives down  
 9-16 - - - Wheel, - - - come back  
 17-24 - - - Cast off, - - - forward six  
 25-32 - - - -, - - Actives do sa do  
 33-40 - - - -, - - Others do sa do  
 41-48 - - - -, - - Turn contra corners

Note: This dance was written especially to teach the action of "Turn Contra Corners," and it does this very effectively. It is also a smooth flowing dance which most dancers thoroughly enjoy.

Presented by Don Armstrong