

Argeers (The English Dancing Master 1651)

This is a country dance with a fair amount of scope for interpretation. This version was created by Robert Huggett in 2019. The dance is for 2 couples.

- One couple is designated as first or top couple and that man initiates some of the figures.
- By default 2 bars are 1 double (however you choose to do your doubles for English country dances).
- I use "contrary" to mean the person of the opposite sex from the other couple. The contrary of the man in couple 1 is the lady from couple 2.
- Throughout instructions in brackets are editorial and you can vary them if you wish.

A1	1 – 2	Meet all a double and take the contrary by both hands
	3	2 slips left
	4	2 slips right
	5	Change places with your contrary passing right shoulders and...
	6 – 8	Turn your own one and a half times clockwise (right hands), don't bother trying to articulate this into doubles.
A2	1 – 4	Meet your contrary and turn them one and a half times anti-clockwise (left hands), don't bother trying to articulate this into doubles.
	5 - 8	Turn your own one and a half times clockwise (right hands) to get to your own place, don't bother trying to articulate this into doubles.
B1	1 - 2	Men change places by (right) shoulders with a double
	3 - 4	Women change places by (left) shoulders (start with the right foot) with a double.
	5 - 8	Set and turn single (left)
B2	1 - 2	Women change places by (left) shoulders (start with the right foot)
	3 - 4	Men change places by (right) shoulders
	5 - 8	Set and turn single (right)
A3	1 – 2	Lead out a double with your contrary
	3 – 4	Fall back a double with your contrary
	5 – 8	Turn your own clockwise in 2 doubles.
A4	1 - 2	Fall Back a double with your own
	3 – 4	Advance a double with your own
	5 – 8	Set and turn single left
B3	1 – 2	Men gallop/slip to the right passing in front of the ladies while the ladies gallop left passing behind the men. Here the original instruction says "Men go to the right hand and back again, the women going to the left", so several interpretations other than mine are possible.
	3 - 4	Men gallop to the left passing behind the ladies while the ladies gallop right passing in front of the men
	5 – 8	Turn your contrary (clockwise).
B4	1 – 2	The women meet and fall back
	3 – 8	The men pass right shoulders, turn left round their contrary pass right again in the middle and then go about their own to get home. Here the original says "men go the single hay, and to your places". Other solutions than the one proposed are possible.
A5	1 – 4	Take both hands with your contrary, man put the woman back and fall back into the other place. The original instruction is "Put each others woman back by both hands, slip to the right hand; fall down on the contrary side". But there isn't much time for all that so I have simplified it.
	5 – 8	Set and turn single left
A6	1 - 2	1 st man and 2 nd woman slip to the man's left between the other pair who slip to the 2 nd man's right
	3 – 4	Take hands with the contrary and the man puts her back (2 steps) and forwards (2 steps). The original instruction is "Slip between each other to your places, put them backwards and forwards by both hands."
	5 – 8	Set and turn single left
B5	1 – 4	1 st man and 2 nd woman cast off with the others following, back to your places, I wouldn't bother articulating this as doubles.
	5 – 8	2 nd man and 1 st woman cast off with the others following.
B6	1 – 4	2 changes of a hay starting (right) shoulders with your contrary. 1 double per change.
	5 – 8	Turn your own (both hands) and fall into line facing the presence