

1928 Lindy Hop

(United States)

As danced by Shorty Snowden and fellow Savoy Ballroom dancers. The Lindy Hop was filmed in the same year it was named, 1928, for the sound film "After Seben" (released in 1929). George Snowden's dancers and Chick Webb's Savoy Ballroom orchestra performed.

We can see that this original version was very similar to the 1910 Texas Tommy, with similar footwork, figures and tempo. Like many evolving folk dance forms, the dance simplified, in this case to two basic steps instead of the original four. If you do the Texas Tommy swing-out figures with a simplified Texas Tommy step instead of pivots, you get the dance shown in this film, which the Savoy dancers called the Two-Step until Shorty George changed the name to Lindy Hop in the spring of 1928.

Music: 1920s Classic Jazz

Rhythm: 4/4 meter, approximately 100 beats/min

Formation: Cpls in Ballroom pos (the man may hold her R hand close to his L side, near his spleen).

Steps: Basic Lindy Hop Step: M step on L to L side (cts 1-2); step on R across and closely behind L, rocking back on it (ct 3); return wt to L ft in place (ct 4). S-QQ timing. Repeat to the other side, beg side R.

W begins with side R. This may slightly turn in place CW or CCW.

Turning Basic: Turn as a cpl in a full CW rotation. On ct 1, W steps straight fwd R, between M's ft, in Closed pos. W no longer rocks behind on cts 3-4, but does two quick running steps traveling around M, side L and slightly crossing R over L. W's 2nd meas is the Basic above, with the rock step.

Sidekick: On cts 7-8 (rock step), push back away from ptr with hands, keeping other arms in Closed pos, and the M kicks his L ft out to the L side on ct 7 instead of doing the rock step.

Swing-Out: On ct 6, M releases W with his R arm, keeping his L (W's R) hand. W falls back to single-hand hold as both do their rock-step on cts 7-8. Pull back into Ballroom pos.

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Presented by Richard Powers