

SUWIEC
(Poland)

Suwiec is a couple dance in 2/4 time from Jasło in the Rzeszów region in southeastern Poland. It represents the typical spirit and character of the Rzeszów dances, which often require unusual positions and movements of the body. The story has it that it was inspired by the sweeping motion of the farmer's scythe (Part I). The name is derived from the verb "suwać" -- to shuffle, to slide (Part II).

Pronunciation: SOO-vyets

Record: ZM-40591 "Tańce ludowe z Polski" (Folk Dances from Poland), side A, band 4.

Formation: Any number of cpls around a circle, ptrs about 3 feet apart facing each other, M faces LOD.

MeasPatternINTRODUCTION

1-2 M put R hand on ptr's waist, and W put L hand on ptr's R shoulder. M's L hand takes hold of back of ptr's R hand and places it on his L hip holding it there; both standing with own feet parallel and about 12" apart, bend knees deeply and bend fwd from waist so that backs are straight and almost parallel to the floor. Put your head down on ptr's R shoulder so that R ear is resting on it.

PART I.(slower tempo of music)

Cpls will move in LOD in a zigzag pattern.

1 M's step: Keeping knees bent all the time, step slightly fwd on R ft making a 1/8 CW turn to face diag out of circle (ct 1); step on L ft parallel and about 12" apart from other ft and shifting wt onto both feet (ct 2), bounce slightly (ct &). While doing these steps lead ptr to move to your R.

W's step: With knees bent make a long step with L ft diag bkwd, twd outside of circle (ct 1); straightening knees bring R ft near other ft, shifting wt onto both feet (ct 2). Keep directly facing ptr the whole time.

2 Both repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction, however, on ct 1 M has to make 1/4 turn (rather than 1/8) to face diag into circle, and W's diag bkwd step has to be longer.

3 Repeat action of meas 2 with opp ftwork and direction.

4 Repeat action of meas 2.

5-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 two more times (eight times in all), except on ct 2 of meas 8 straighten body and knees and turn so that M faces ctr.

SUWIEC (continued)PART II. (faster tempo of music)

- 1-4 In social dance pos sharply bend and have wt on M R, W L leg, and with seven small hops (two per meas) move sdwd in LOD, dragging other leg behind straight. On ct 2 of meas 4 straighten knee and do a wtless stamp with M L, W R ft, near other ft.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Part II) with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Part II), except on ct 2 of meas 16 turn so that M faces LOD, W still facing M.

Repeat the dance twice (three times in all). As there is no introduction music, the starting pos has to be acquired with the first step of Part I.

Dance introduced in the Spring of 1975, at the New England Folk Festival in Natick, Massachusetts, by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski, who learned it from Leokadia Magdziarz, a noted Rzeszów region folklorist. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission.

Presented by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski