

## TOSINGADANSEN (Sweden)

Tosingadansen (TOO-sing-a-dahnsen) is a happy-go-lucky mixer dance from the maritime province of Bleking (blake-ing) in southeast Sweden.

**Source:** Described in "Svenska Folkdanser & Sällskapsdanser" published by Svenska Ungdomsringen för Bygdekultur, Stockholm.

**Music:** Record: Swedish Telefunken UX-5076.

**Formation:** Any number of cpls in ring, all hands joined at shoulder level. During "figurering" M's hands on hips Swedish style (fingers fwd, thumb back), W lightly holding skirt.

**Steps:** Step-hops; "figurering" steps (described below); waltz.

**Character:** Sprightly and with humor.

<u>Measures</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
-----------------	----------------

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1-8, 1-8     | <u>A. Ring CW and CCW</u><br>Hands joined at shoulder level, all dance to L (CW) with 16 step-hops, and back to R (CCW) with 16 step-hops.   |
| 9-16         | <u>B. "Figurering", with ptr change</u><br>Ptrs face each other, M with back to ctr of circle, W facing in, and dance 16 cts of "figurering" step (see description below).   |
| 9-16         | M moves fwd to own L (CCW) to face next W, and 16 more "Figurering" steps are danced, facing this person.  |
| 17-24, 17-24 | <u>C. Waltz</u><br>Present cpls take Swedish waltz hold (similar to regular closed waltz pos except M's L hand grasps W's R fingers with her palm down instead of palm-to-palm, hands extended at arm's length out from shoulder), and dance 16 meas of waltz, turning CW and progressing fwd in LOD |

At conclusion of waltz music, M places present ptr on own R, the ring is reestablished, and entire sequence repeated.

Swedish "Figurering" steps: The Figuré, which is from the French and was an essential part of the court dances of old, has left its mark on traditional dance patterns in Scandinavia. It is still found in many folkdances, simple as well as more complex. The exact manner of dancing the Figuré was more often than not left up to the M, so there is great variety in the step.

Based upon "step-hop music", as in Tosingadansen, here are but two of the ways in which the dancers can respond:

- a) the "Danish Reel" step, which is rhythmically identical to an ordinary step-hop, but with each alternate ft swinging around behind the other to take the step and hop on the other side of said ft, instead of alongside as usual. A certain "tilt" of the body thus ensues.
- b) the Finnish "Melkutus" step, which is also essentially a step-hop, but with the opp ft coming back on the step, and kicked straight out fwd (toe down) on the hop.

Presented by Gordon E. Tracie