

SWEDISH WEAVING DANCE

(Vava Vadmal)

Figures learned by Vyts during the early 30's from Chicago Swedish groups.

Record: Folkraft 1172. This is the only record which has enough music for all figures and for 16 cpls.

Formation: Column of 8 to 12 cpls facing fwd. W on ptrs R. Cpls are numbered "One's" and "Two's" from the head. Eight to 12 cpls are recommended, although any number of cpls, starting with a minimum of 6, may form a set.

Starting Position: Ptrs facing in lines about 8 ft apart. Hands joined in lines and held at shoulder height with elbows bent.

Note: (a) Length of dance and number of meas required for the various figures will depend on the number of cpls in a set.

(b) When inactive, keep time in place by "bobbing" up and down, raising and lowering heels.

MeasPatternFigure I - Lines Fwd and Back

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| 1-4 | Lines fwd and back with 3 running steps fwd starting with R ft, ending with a stamp on L ft, bowing to opp line, then 4 running steps bkwd to place, pausing on last 2 cts. |
| 5-8 | Head cpl to ft of set: Lines "bob" in place while head cpl with inside hands joined, runs down ctr, between the lines, to ft of set, then releases hands and turns about to reface set. |
| 9-12 | Lines fwd and back, same as meas 1-4. |
| 13-16 | Head cpl return to head of set, repeating pattern of meas 5-8, turning about at the end to reface the set. |
| 1-4 | Lines fwd and back, same as meas 1-4. |
| 5-8 | Head cpl R elbow swing in middle: Head cpl runs 6 steps to middle of set, then hooks R elbows and swings CW with 6 running steps. |

Figure IIa - Reeling (Knitting)

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| as
required | Head M, with 6 running steps, swing the last W, at the ft of the set, with L elbow: head W swings the M at the head of the set with L elbow, then, with 6 running steps, head cpl returns to swing in middle with R elbow. Head cpl continues to reel, head M swinging each W in turn from ft to head of set with L elbow, alternately swinging ptr in middle with R |
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SWEDISH WEAVING DANCE (continued)

elbow. Head W swings each M in turn from head to ft of set with L elbow, and ptr in middle with R elbow. Finish with a R elbow swing with ptr in middle of set; with inside hands joined, run to head of set with 6 steps.

Figure IIb - Lines Kneel - Head Cpl Arch

8 meas Lines kneel on one knee and clap in time, accenting first ct of each meas, while head cpl (W on inside) circles CW, running with joined hands raised to form an arch over line of kneeling W, then over line of kneeling M, separating at the head to return to places at head of line.

8 meas Lines fwd and back, same as meas 1-4.
Lines run fwd 4 steps, then turn in place to finish with cpl facing cpl. "One's" facing down.

Figure III - Arches (Darning)

as All "Two's" raise joined hands to form an arch and run down required the set alternately "arching" and "diving" while the "One's" progress up the set, alternately "diving" and "arching." At the ends, release hands and face about, turning twd ptr, remaining on same side. Return to places, approaching cpls determining the start of "over" or "under."

Figure IV - Weaving

as Ptrs facing, both hands joined. Cpls start to "weave" by required separating, with 6 running steps, M 1 moving bkwd as M 2 move fwd, then exchange places pulling in opp directions. "One's" moving diag down to ft of set, while "Two's" progress up to head of set, with 6 steps for each exchange. Upon reaching each end, cpls "bob" in place for 6 cts. Approaching cpls will determine the first exchange as cpls reverse direction and continue to "weave" until all cpls are back in original places.

Figure V - Threading and Unravelling

as Ptrs facing. M join R hands with ptr L and reach across, under required joined hands, to join L hands with R hand of W below (on ptr's L). Last M, whose L hand is free, leads the line up the set under the arches, behind the W line and down to ft. All follow, keeping hands joined, unravelling as line runs under arches. At ft, leading cpl starts to thread again by bringing joined hands fwd and making one outward turn under the raised joined hands, re-forming arches. Each cpl in turn follows under the arches, emerging together, ptrs bring joined hands fwd before turning away from each other and around "back to back" to reform arch.

Repeat entire Figure, unravelling and re-threading.

SWEDISH WEAVING DANCE (continued)

as
required Figure VI - Winding the bolt
Last M, leading under arches, unravels a third time, then leads from a CW circle into a spiral "winding the bolt of cloth." End W may hasten the "wind-up" by circling CCW. At the end of the "wind-up," last M "cuts" through the bolt, running under the joined hands and under the arch formed by the end cpl, leading the line into a CW circle.

as
required Figure VII - Testing the Cloth
Grand Right and Left with elbow swings: Ptrs face and start "testing" strength of cloth with a R elbow swing, once around with 6 steps, then progress with 3 steps to next one for a L elbow swing. Continue. M progressing CCW and the W CW, until ptrs meet. Ptrs then join both hands and spin in place CW, ending with both hands raised high. Nine cts instead of 6, for each swing and advance, will make for smoother and easier changes.

Note: To shorten or simplify the dance, repeats or entire figures may be omitted.

Dance description by Olga Kulbitsky, Hunter College of the City of New York. Abbreviations added to fit U.O.P. syllabus format.

Presented by Vyts Beliajus