

Israeli Mazurka

(Israel)

Choreographer: Unknown—possibly Yonatan Karmon (late 1950's). Movements are based on the Polish Mazurka.

Pronunciation:

Music:

3/4 meter

Formation: Couples in a circle, facing counterclockwise, M on L. Inside hands joined, down.

Steps: Mazurka step: Step fwd on outside ft (ct 1); step fwd on inside ft (ct 2); hop on inside ft while lifting outside knee (ct 3).

Mazurka handhold: M's inside hand around W's waist, W's inside hand on M's inside shldr.

Meas

Pattern

A. WALTZES, W TURNS

- 1 Beginning with outside ft, one waltz fwd, swinging joined hands fwd.
- 2 One waltz fwd, swinging joined hands back.
- 3-4 M repeats meas 1-2; W use the same steps while turning to her R under the raised, joined hands. (One slow turn is acceptable, two turns is most common. Some flashy dancers turn the W three and four revolutions!).
- 5-18 Repeat 1-4 three more times.

B. MAZURKA STEPS IN MAZURKA HANDHOLD

- 1-7 Seven Mazurka steps moving CCW as a couple.
- 8 Three stamping steps starting with outside ft, turning individually to face CW. M does half-turn to the R; W does half-turn L.
- 1-7 Seven Mazurka steps moving clockwise as a cpl.
- 8 Three stamping steps starting with outside ft; quarter-turn individually to face each other. End with M's back to center, W facing center. M takes one extra step to end with R ft free.

C. BACK AWAY, RETURN, BUZZ-TURN

- 1-4 Back away from partner with four swaying waltz steps. Both start with R. W's hands are on her waist. M claps hands: hold, clap, clap, etc.
- 5-6 Two Mazurka steps beginning with R ft, moving back twd ptr.
- 7-8 R hand on ptr's waist, L hand held high. Two complete rotations as a couple using a "buzz" step (12 rapid steps). Alternatively, one rotation using 6 simple running step is also common.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 once more.
Variation: sometimes the M and W perform the rotation in cts 7-8 so that they switch positions and the W has her back to ctr.
End with outside ft free (M has to take another extra step), join inside hands down to repeat the dance.

Presented by Loui Tucker