

Påscher aus Mieger

(Austria)

Påscher aus Mieger (PASH-er ous MEE-ger) is a group dance from Southern Austria (Mieger is near Klag-enfurt, close to the Slovenian border). The men perform multi-rhythmic clapping patterns; "påscher" is a dialect form of "patschen" or "slapping." Marian and Ned Gault danced Påscher aus Mieger in Austria in the summers of 1977-1986 and presented it at the 1988 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: "Volkstänze/Volksmusik" E10-102 Side A/2

4/4, 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Cpls in a double circle, M back to ctr, ptrs facing. Hands on waist, fingers fwd.

STEPS and Side-Close Step (2 per meas): Step on R to R side (ct 1); step on L beside R (ct 2).
STYLING: Next one moves again to R, repeating cts 1,2 exactly (cts 3,4). Step may begin with L ft to L side.

Austrian Polka (1 per meas): May be danced in any direction. Small leap onto L in desired direction (ct 1); step on R near L (ct &); step on L near R (ct 2). Step alternates. When danced in Closed Turn Pos, two Austrian Polkas are used to make one CW turn. Steps are small and kept under the body, accenting the turn rather than covering a lot of ground. The leap is soft and bouncy.

Closed Turn Pos: Ptrs facing, M hands on W back just below shoulder blades, arms rounded. M may hold W upper R arm with his L hand. W hands on M shoulders.

MUSIC 4/4, 2/4 meter

PATTERN

Measures

4/4

4 meas INTRODUCTION No action.

I. SIDE-CLOSE, TURN IN PLACE

- 1 Beg ML, WR, dance one Side-Close Step in LOD (CCW)(cts 1,2); step on ML, WR, sdwd in LOD (ct 3); close MR to L, WL to R (no wt)(ct 4). Steps are small and light.
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction, moving sdwd in RLOD (CW). At end take Closed Turn Pos.
- 3-4 Beg ML, WR, dance 8 small pivot steps to make 2 turns CW on the spot (1 step to a ct).
- 5-8 Release ptr and repeat meas 1-4, except on the turn (meas 7-8) M take only 6 steps and instead of completing the second turn, release ptr and turn L to face ctr stepping on L ft (meas 8, ct 3) and hold (meas 8, ct 4). W dance all 8 steps as before, to end facing ctr, standing directly behind ptr, hands on waist, fingers fwd.

II. MAN CLAP AND WOMAN TURN

- 1-8 M: Beg R, dance 16 Side-Close Steps in LOD. On the "side" steps (cts 1,3 of each meas) clap hands in front at chest level.
 - (1) W: Beg R, dance 2 Side-Close Steps in LOD.
 - (2) Beg R, turn once CW with 2 steps (cts 1,2); beg R, dance 1 Side-Close Step in LOD (cts 3,4). The turn is light, done on the balls of the ft. Adjust steps so as to stay behind ptr as the circle moves in LOD.
 - (3-8) Repeat meas 1-2 three times.
- 9-16 M: Repeat meas 1-8, except some M now clap on the "close" steps (cts 2,4 of each meas) while the rest continue clapping as before. A few M may clap other rhythmic patterns (within the 4/4 framework).

- (9-16) W: Repeat meas 1-2 four more times, except on the last closing step (meas 16, ct 4) touch L rather than take wt.
NOTE: In Austria many W do not dance the 2 Side-Close Steps (meas 1) but only dance meas 2 (turn and Side-Close) 16 times.

2/4 III. AUSTRIAN POLKA TURN

- 1 M: Beg R, dance 1 Austrian Polka turning $\frac{1}{2}$ CW to face ptr and join in Closed Turn Pos with ptr.
W: Beg L, dance 1 Austrian Polka in place.
2-15 Beg ML, WR, dance 14 Austrian Polka steps turning CW and moving in LOD.
16 M step L,R (W - R,L) to stop turn with M on inside of circle, ptrs facing (cts 1,2).

4/4 IV. SIDE-CLOSE, TURN IN PLACE

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2, but use closed ballroom pos. During meas 1 extend ML, WR straight in LOD. During meas 2 bend elbows to bring joined hands twd chest.
3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 3-4 (Turn in Place) with joined hands (ML,WR) extended as in closed ballroom pos.
5-8 Repeat Fig I, meas 5-8 but continuing in closed ballroom pos instead of Closed Turn Pos. End as in Fig I, meas 8: M facing ctr, W behind ptr, also facing ctr.

V. MAN STAMP AND WOMAN TURN

- 1-8 M: Beg R, dance 16 Side-Close Steps in LOD, stamping R ft on the "side" (cts 1,3 of each meas). Keep steps small in order to emphasize the "stamp" sound. Hands are on waist, fingers fwd.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 adding a louder stamp on L ft on the "close" steps (cts 2,4 of each meas). This is in addition to the stamp R on the "side" steps.
(1-16) W: Repeat Fig II.

2/4 VI. AUSTRIAN POLKA TURN

- 1-16 Repeat Fig III.

4/4 VII. SIDE-CLOSE, TURN IN PLACE

- 1-8 Repeat Fig I.

VIII. MAN STAMP, CLAP AND WOMAN TURN

- 1-8 M: Beg R, dance 16 Side-Close Steps in LOD, clapping hands and stamping R ft on each "side" step (cts 1,3 of each meas).
9-16 M: Beg R, dance 16 Side-Close Steps, stamping R ft on each "side" step (cts 1,3 of each meas) and clapping hands on each "close" step (cts 2,4 of each meas).
(1-16) W: Repeat Fig II.

2/4 IX. AUSTRIAN POLKA TURN

- 1 Repeat Fig III, meas 1.
2-31 Dance 30 Austrian Polka steps turning CW and moving in LOD.
32 M step L,R (W - R,L) to stop turn with M on inside of circle, ptrs facing (cts 1,2).

Description based on notes written by Ned Gault.

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