

Diobolek

Pronunciation: dyoh-BOH-wehk

Record: DR-7167 and RPC 713, "Tańce Śląskie" (Silesian Dances), side B, band 3, available from Ada Dziewanowska.

This is a couple dance known all over the Upper Silesia in south-western Poland. "Diobolek" means a little devil, spoken in the Silesian dialect. The dance is called also Diobelek, or Klaskany (the clapping dance). The Cieszyn version of the music and of the dance is used here. The music is quite ancient and offers an interesting contrast. It is composed of three parts, all three in 2/4 time. The first one, A, is slower and has a 6-measure phrase, played twice. The second one, B, is faster and has an 8-measure phrase, played twice. The third one, C, is a polka tune with a 7-measure phrase when played the first time, and an 8-measure phrase when played the second time. Interestingly, tune C is the same as the melody of the Serbian dance, Savila.

Starting position: Couples in a circle, Man and Woman face each other, Man faces LOD, their hands on own hips (fingers and elbows forward).

Measures

PATTERN

I. WALKING AND BOWING - Mel A

- 1-2 The couple gives each other their R hands; Man starting with L ft and moving forward, Woman starting with R ft and moving backward, with 4 steps couple walks in LOD. With each step taken they swing their joined arms in and out.
- 3 They bring their feet together (Man L to R, Woman R to L) and bow to each other in the dignified Silesian style: slight bend of the head and of the upper body.
- 4-6 Repeat pattern of meas 1-3.
- 7-12 Holding their L hands and moving in RLOD the couple repeats the pattern of meas 1-6.

II. THE "ATTACK" - Mel B

- 1 The couple moves in LOD; on ct 1 Man steps forward with L ft, Woman jumps backward on R ft, both clap their own hands; ct 2: Man jumps forward, quite high, on his R ft, Woman jumps backward on L ft, each claps their partner's hands. During the jump Man leans forward as if "attacking" his partner, and Woman leans slightly backward pushing against his clap with her hands, as if defending herself.
- 2-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1 seven more times.
- 9-16 Repeat pattern of meas 1-8 (Children's version: move in RLOD, each partner changing roles).



III. TURNING POLKA - Mel C

- 1-14 In ballroom position, starting with outside ft and moving in LOD, couple does 14 flat polka steps turning first CW and then CCW. (Children's version: All join hands in a circle and with 28 running steps (easier) or 14 flat polka steps (harder) move in LOD.)
- 15 With 2 stamps (Man LR, Woman RL) couple gets into the Starting Position. The whole dance is repeated from the beginning.

Dance introduced at Ralph Page's 1974 New Hampshire Fall Camp by Ada and Jaś Dziewanowski, who learned it in Cieszyn, Poland, from a noted Silesian folklorist, Janina Marcinkowa. Do not reproduce these directions without the Dziewanowskis' permission.