

Finnish Mazurka

Presented by: Frank & Jane Tripi

Music: any lively Finnish mazurka music such as
"Mazurka," No. 4 on **JPP History**, compiled by East Side, Inc. of Minneapolis
"Masurkka," No. 11 on **Troka**, Olarin Musiikki, Finland

Meter: 3/4

Hold: Joined inside hands, Man on inside of circle Woman on outside. Both facing line of direction.

Cut step: Standing leg has a slightly bent knee, which when it is straightened will lift the other leg. In the dance this is done as step (1), step (2), cut (3).

Mazurka step: (both men and women) weight on inside foot. There is a slight lift or hop just before count 1, followed by three turning mazurka steps. The size of the hop is usually small, and may even be just a lift. There are two options for count 1 a. lift, step (1), step(2), step(3) or b. both(1), step (2), step(3).

Movement:

Variation One: Joined Inside Hands

a. Three sets of cut steps starting with weight on inside feet. (M's R, W's L)

b. After the first set of cut steps the man pulls the Woman across him and she now dances on the inside, he on the outside. After the second set, he pulls her back to original position for one more set of cut steps.

c. Man turns to face woman to dance eight Mazurka turning steps CW. M L hand holds W's R hand on his hip.

The couple opens to face LOD and the dance continues

Variation Two: Front Skaters' Position

Repeat pattern one using front skaters' hold. The man pulls the woman around in front of him after three sets of cut steps. They continue holding hands throughout the stepping and passing. (W passes in front of M). Woman is now on the inside and man is on the outside. The cut steps are repeated a second time and the woman passes back in front of the man to her original position. The couple continues as in Variation One "b". with the turning mazurka steps

Variation Three: Back Skaters' Position

Repeat pattern two, but remain in back skaters' hold (W goes behind M). The back handhold requires a bit more flexibility and body adjustment than variation two. Keeping the back "basket" hold, the couple back towards each other to make the change with the woman ending up on the inside as above. The couple can decide on how they want to get to part "b". W can pass either in front or back behind the M..which ever is more comfortable. The couple continues as in variation one "b."

Sources: Anja Miller, Alix Cordray