

Italian Mazurka

Music: Any Italian mazurka. (Most of my dancers prefer Spiro S-7102; Teresa . . . The Gondoliers, Columbia 37907 is also a favorite.)

Outsiders attending Italian (especially North Italian) affairs for the first time are usually surprised to find, not the tarantellas they expected, but rather waltzes, schottisches, polkas and mazurkas. The first three dances are executed more or less in the manner common to other European countries; the mazurka, however, is most often danced as in the following description.

Formation: Couples scattered around the room as in ordinary waltz or polka. Start facing partner, both hands joined. Description is for the man; lady dances counterpart (using opposite foot).

- (A) Step to the left on the left foot; swing the right foot over the left, touching the right toe to the floor in front of, and slightly to the left of the left toe Bar 1
- (B) Step to the right on the right foot; swing the left foot over the right, touching the left toe to the floor in front and to the right of the right foot Bar 2
- (C) Release leading hands (man's left, lady's right), and placing this hand on hip, take one step-close-step forward in the line of dance, starting on the man's left foot and turning to face in the line of dance Bar 3
- (D) Swinging inside hands forward and turning back somewhat toward partner, take another step-close-step in the line of dance Bar 4
- (E) Man turns in to take lady in closed waltz position and dance 4 bars of a fast, turning 2-step or Viennese Waltz (the first is more usual; I gather the latter is considered an affectation) Bars 5-8

