

Neapolitan Tarantella

(Italy)

Many versions of the Neapolitan Tarantella can be found in the U.S. All of them involve walks, step-hops, pas-de-basques, and a polka or two-step. The following form is one danced in several areas of this country.

Formation: Double circle, partners facing with M's back to center, W may hold a tambourine in L hand.

Figure I

- 1-4 With hands overhead, take 4 pas de basque steps starting to own R, and alternating L, R, L.
5-8 Keep L hands held high and place R arms around partner's waist, R hops are side by side, and take 4 step-hops, starting with the R ft, to turn CW once in place.
9-16 Repeat 1-8.

Figure II

- 1-4 M takes W's L hand in his R as she changes tambourine to her R hand. M does 4 two-steps in place without turning, as W circles him CCW with 4 two-steps. Joined hands are held high to swing over his head during the circling.
5-6 With inside hands still joined and facing in LOD, partners take one pas-de-basque away from each other, M to his L and W to her R, and one pas de basque toward each other.
7-8 Release hands and turn away from each other in place, man to his L and W to her R, with 4 steps. M claps his hands and W strikes tambourine on the first step.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure II to end about 6 feet apart, facing partner, M with back to center.

Figure III

- 1-2 Take 4 walking steps toward partner, start from a slightly crouched position with hands held behind and gradually straighten and bring hands to overhead as partners move to the L of each other.
3-4 Back away with 4 walking steps and reverse the arm and body movement.
5-8 With arms held high and woman shaking tambourine, dos-a-do around partner with 8 walking steps, passing first by R shoulders than by L to return to place.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure III.

Figure IV

- 1-8 Assume closed social dance position and turn CW with 6 polka steps while progressing CCW. Release closed position and man continues fwd with 2 polka steps as he turns W CW twice under his L arm.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Figure IV.