

TROTting DANCE

(Köra; Trava)

Oldtime couple dance from Sweden

Source: As learned and danced in southern Sweden (1950-51) by Gordon E. Tracie, and taught at Scandia Folkdance Club, Seattle.

Recording: Linden 803, "Kiviks Polka"; 4-meas intro.

Formation: For any number of couples; LOD CCW.

Dance Posns: Open: couple facing fwd, W on M's R, open shoulder-waist position;

Closed: "Swedish folkdance hold" (as described for Old Hambo-Polska).

Steps: Walking step; "Bounce-hambo" step, as described for Stockholm Hambo, but with observations noted below.

The following are not figures in the regular sense, but merely two dance positions, each with own corresponding steps, which are alternated at will, with no fixed number of measures for either:

A. Walk forward:

Couple in open shoulder-waist position, and beginning on inside foot, any even number of walking steps, light and springy, fwd in LOD, in time with the music, one step to each beat (count).

B. Transition and "bounce-hambo" closed partner turn:

Whenever desired—preferably on an even 4-meas phrase—M and W each execute own hambo-polska transition step (as described for Old Hambo-Polska), taking one step-movement for each beat of the music, irrespective of the music's 2/4 time. Closed "Swedish folkdance hold" is completed by end of the 3rd beat (that is, one full 3-count hambo transition step).

Couple then continues to turn CW, with a series of consecutive "bounce-hambo" steps (as described for Stockholm Hambo), one step-movement for each beat of the music, as in transition step above, without regard to either the measures or phrasing of the melody being played. The 3-count hambo step is thus danced "out of phase" with the 2-count polka rhythm. (This "rhythmic counterpoint" format will easily be seen in the step-pattern chart given below.)

Partner turn is continued as long as couple wishes. When a change is desired, open position is again assumed at the completion of any one full "bounce-hambo" step, so that walk forward is once more begun on inside foot. Then closed turn is again resumed at will, in the same manner as described above.

Step-pattern chart:

"BOUNCE-HAMBO" STEP

as danced in the

TROTting DANCE

Music:	Beats	1	2	1	2	1	2
Step:	Man	R	L	Bth	R	L	Bth
	Woman	L	tch R	R	L	tch R	R
	Count	1	2	3	1	2	3

BACKGROUND NOTES: This somewhat unusual dance is not common thruout Sweden, but confined largely to the southernmost part of the country, in the provinces below Stockholm. It is not unlike certain Danish dances which also employ the technique of dancing "against" rather than "with" the normal phrasing of the music. Two names for the

Trotting Dance are in common use in southern Sweden:

Trava (pronounced traw-va), which means "to trot"; and

Köra (pronounced chör-a, or similar to chur- in "church"), also implying a "trotting" action.

Since the Trotting Dance is done to polka music, it serves as an excellent alternate or substitute dance when the polka being played is too fast in tempo for dancing a regular polka (Polkett) or the Pivot Dance (Snoa). The nature of the "bounce-hambo" step allows considerably more relaxation at a fast pace than either the polka or pivot step. It should indeed be quite effortless, and give the impression of "sailing along" comfortably while the music may in fact be very spirited.

---Description prepared by G.E.T.