

SWEDISH WEAVING DANCE
(Vava Vadmal)

FORMATION-

Column of 8 to 12 couples, facing forward, Girl on partner's right. Couples are numbered "Ones" and "Twos" from the head. Eight to twelve couples are recommended although any number of couples, starting with a minimum of six, may form a set.

STARTING POSITION-

Partners facing in lines about eight feet apart. Hands joined in lines and held at shoulder height with elbows bent.

Note: (a) Length of dance and number of measures required for the various figures will depend on the number of couples in a set.

(b) When inactive, keep time in place by "bobbing" up and down, raising and lowering heels.

MEASURES

I - Lines Forward and Back.

1 - 4 LINES FORWARD AND BACK with three running steps forward, starting with Right foot, ending with a stamp on Left foot, bowing to opposite line, then four running steps backward to place, pausing on last two counts.

5 - 8 HEAD COUPLE TO FOOT OF SET. Lines "bob" in place while Head Couple, with inside hands joined, runs down center, between the lines, to foot of set, then releases hands and turns about to reface set.

9 - 12 LINES FORWARD AND BACK, same as above.
13 - 16 HEAD COUPLE RETURN TO HEAD of set, repeating pattern of Measures 5 - 8, turning about at the end to reface the set.

1 - 4 LINES FORWARD AND BACK, same as above.
5 - 8 HEAD COUPLE RIGHT ELBOW SWING IN MIDDLE. Head Couple runs six steps to middle of set then hooks right elbows and swings clockwise with six running steps.

IIa. - Reeling (Knitting)

as required Head Boy, with six running steps, swing the last girl, at the foot of the set, with left elbow, while Head Girl swings the boy at the head of the set with left elbow, then, with six running steps, Head Couple returns to swing in middle with right elbow. Head Couple continues to reel, Head Boy swinging each girl, in turn, from foot to head of set with left elbow, alternately swinging partner in middle with right elbow, while Head Girl swings each boy, in turn, from head to foot of set, with left elbow and partner in middle with right elbow. Finish with a right elbow swing with partner in middle of set, then, with inside hands joined, run to head of set with six steps.

II b. - Lines Kneel - Head Couple Arch

8 measures LINES KNEEL AND CLAP-HEAD COUPLE ARCH. Lines kneel on one knee and clap in time, accenting first count of each measure, while Head Couple, with girl on inside, circles clockwise, running with joined hands raised to form an arch over line of kneeling girls then over line of kneeling boys, separating at the head to return to places at head of line.

8 measures LINES FORWARD AND BACK, same as above, LINES FORWARD - "ONES" FACE "TWOS". Lines run forward four steps then turn in place to finish with couple facing couple, "Ones" facing down.

III - Arches (Darning)

as required All "Twos" raise joined hands to form an arch and run down the set alternately "arching" and "diving" while the "Ones" progress up the set, alternately "diving" and "arching". At the ends, release hands and face about, turning toward partner, remaining on same side. Return to places, approaching couples determining the start of "over" or "under".

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SWEDISH WEAVING DANCE (continued)

IV - Weaving

as required Partners facing, both hands joined. Couples start to "weave" by separating, with six running steps. Boys 1 moving backward while Boys 2 move forward, then exchange places pulling in opposite directions, "Ones" moving diagonally down to foot of set while "Twos" progress up to head of set with six steps for each exchange. Upon reaching each end, couples "bob" in place for six counts. Approaching couples will determine the first exchange as couples reverse direction and continue to "weave" until all couples are back in original places.

V - Threading and Unraveling

as required Partners facing. Boys join right hands with partners left and reach across, under joined hands, to join left hands with right hand of girl below (on partner's left). Last Boy, whose left hand is free, leads the line up the set under the arches, behind the girls' line and down to foot. All follow, keeping hands joined, unravelling as line runs under arches. At foot, leading couple starts to thread again by bringing joined hands forward and making one outward turn under the raised joined hands, re-forming arches. Each couple, in turn, follows under the arches, emerging together, partners bringing their joined hands forward before turning away from each other and around "back to back" to re-form arch.
REPEAT entire figure, unravelling and re-threading.

VI - Winding the bolt

as required Last Boy, leading under arches, unravels a third time, then leads from a clockwise circle into a spiral "winding the bolt of cloth". End girl may hasten the "wind-up" by circling counterclockwise. At the end of the "wind-up", Last Boy "cuts" through the bolt, running under the joined hands and under the arch formed by the end couple, leading the line into a clockwise circle.

VII - Testing the cloth

as required Grand Right and Left with elbow swings. Partners face and start "testing" strength of cloth with a right-elbow swing, once around with six steps, then progress with three steps to next one for a left-elbow swing. Continue, boys progressing counterclockwise and the girls clockwise, until partners meet. Partners then join both hands and spin in place clockwise, ending with both hands raised high. Nine counts, instead of six, for each swing and advance will make for smoother and easier changes.
Note: To shorten or simplify the dance, repeats or entire figures may be omitted.