

Cajun Waltz

There are many ways to do a Cajun Waltz. In some variations the three count waltz rhythm is maintained; one uses four counts against the three-count music, and others use four steps over two measures (two steps of which take two counts each and two take one count). A full discussion can be found in my book, Dances of the Cajuns. All are done in relaxed Ballroom dance position. Below are three of my favorite variations.

Drive the Woman: (Man begins with the left, woman begins with the right. Step on each beat, woman going backward, man going forward.) This waltz is also done by Country-Western and Cowboy dancers in other parts of the country to C-W music.

Meas. 1

Count 1 Long step.

2 Short step.

3 Short step.

Meas. 2 Opposite footwork.

The man always travels forward, he turns the woman one full turn to her right in three steps under his uplifted left arm on Measure 1 (or any measure she begins with her right) whenever he wishes.

Cajun Cowboy Waltz: I heard about this waltz some 20 years ago because of the peculiar long step on the second beat. I gave it this name because I found the "in place" part done by the cowboys in Texas. Ballroom position, man begins with the left, woman begins with the right. It has steps for dancing in place or for traveling.

Dance generally in one place, but turn in either direction on any measure.

Meas. 1

- Count 1 Step in place.
2 Step to the rear (little or no turning of the body, but dancers are stepping away from each other).
3 Step in original place.

Meas. 2 Opposite footwork.

Travel with the Cajun Cowboy Waltz:

Meas. 1

- Count 1 Short step forward (Man forward most of time, woman goes backward).
2 Long step in same direction.
3 Short step backward (Woman steps forward when she is traveling backward).

Meas. 2 Opposite footwork.

Dance the "in place" for any number of measures. The man changes to the "travel" by changing the direction of his count 2 step from backward to forward. The woman is basically doing the same steps for "in place" as she is while "traveling" backward except for the longer steps. Count 3 does not return to the original place in the "travel" as it does in the "in place". Even though it is directed away from the direction of travel it progresses from the original place. On those rare occasions when the man wishes the woman to go forward he leads her into a forward step on count 2 while he takes a longer back step.

Six-Count Waltz: There are several variations of the six-count waltz found throughout Acadiana. It is really the Texas Two-Step (a popular country Western dance done in six counts to 2:4 music, using one and one-half measures) transposed to two measures of waltz music. Man travels forward most of the time while the woman travels backward. Occasionally the dancers turn one-half while traveling and the man goes backward for a while. Ballroom position, man begins left, Woman begins right. One of my favorite variations is below.

Meas. 1

- Count 1 Touch (Man slightly forward with the left, Woman backward with the right).
2 Step in that spot.
3 Touch in same direction.

Meas. 2

- Count 1 Step in that spot.
2 Step in same direction.
3 Step in same direction.

LIKE REDDOWA

Repeat from beginning.