

CLOSING CROSSTEP WALTZ

(United States)

This is the traditional closing waltz of many of our Stanford dances. Researched by Richard Powers

MUSIC: Any slow waltz music or any duple music of approximately walking tempo.

METER: 3/4

TEMPO: 116 to 130 bpm is best.

FORMATION: Cpls, in Ballroom pos., spaced evenly around the room in LOD.

STEP: Crosstep Waltz: M crosses R ft over in front of his L ft (ct 1); steps L to L side (ct 2); shading body to R side, step R to R side, drawing R slightly bkwd (ct 3). Repeat opp beg crossing L over R. M lead W into mirror-image steps, emphasizing the "crossbow" lead, but also beg clear to lead her body shading back inward on cts 2 and 3.
Styling: Very smooth and balanced. Emphasize the ct 1 cross-step.

Meas

DANCE PATTERN

- 1-4 Turning Crosstep Waltz CW, rotating CW and traveling LOD for two full rotations
- 5 Unfold from Ballroom pos., so the W is at the M's R side, all generally facing into the center of the room but look at your Corner (the next person) during this measure. The step is a simple waltz balance forward (step-close-close).
- 6 Do a waltz balance backwards observing and acknowledging the entire group.
- 7 Do an Inside Turn with your corner:
Ct 1: M crosses his R over his L while raising his L arm gracefully; as W crosses her L over her R, raising her R arm and beginning to turn CCW.
Ct 2: M steps side L; W side R continuing to rotate CCW, backing up under her own R hand.
Ct 3: Having exchanged places with your Corner, face them and simply take this step in place, wherever it comfortably falls. M is facing LOD at this moment.
- 8 Ct 1: M crosses L over R as W crosses R over L, both aiming directly away from the center.
Ct 2: Both take Ballroom pos. as M steps side R, W side L, beginning to rotate CW.
Ct 3: Take the third step in place, wherever it comfortably falls, continuing to rotate CW.

Repeat from the top.

Like some of the best folk dances, this is not about technique or complexity. The intent is connecting to each of your partners completely during the short waltz, and acknowledging the gathered company during the sixth bar of the pattern.

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