

### CURACAO WALTZ

During the first part of the 19th century, the Dutch colonists brought the European waltz to their island of Curacao. At first it was confined to society dances with the Negro slaves looking on. But soon the dance, at least the rhythm, was picked up and performed everywhere in the island. However, as in many other originally European dances, the various African beats were superimposed upon the original rhythm producing a distinctive style both in music and in dance. The Curacao Waltz is still one of the favorite dances of the Netherlands West Indies and is a combination of traditional and formal European waltzing with the rhythms which have come out of Africa. The style is graceful, there is no excessive body movement, and the mood is gay.

Music: Monogram \_\_\_\_\_ "Aura" (Curacao Waltz)

Formation: Couples in a circle facing CCW, side by side with R hands held.

Steps:

1. Waltz: The Curacao waltz step is danced very much as is the European waltz (step-step-close) with a slightly shorter step.
2. Dip Step: With L hip and shoulder adjacent in ballroom dance position, M starting L and W starting R: (Step described for M)  
Step fwd, dipping slightly (long step)(ct. 1-2)  
Step R in place (ct. 3)  
Step L beside R (ct. 1-2) (partners now facing)  
Step R in place (ct. 3)  
Repeat step as above but with R shoulders and hips adjacent.  
Turn: With R shoulder and hip adjacent (ballroom dance position), M steps fwd with L ft dipping slightly (ct. 1-2)  
Steps in place with R (ct. 3)  
Steps back with L ft (ct. 1-2)  
Steps in place with R (ct. 3)  
The W dances the counterpart and the step is done while turning - 8 meas to complete one full turn.
3. Balance and Pivot: Partners in ballroom position: (Man L, W R)  
Waltz balance to L  
Waltz balance to R  
Step on L (ct. 1)  
Pivoting with short push step (M fwd, W bkwd), step on R (ct. 2)  
(turn CCW)  
Step balance on L (ct. 3)  
Step balance on R (ct. &)  
Step on L (ct. 1)  
Step balance on R (ct. 2)  
Step on L (ct. 3)  
Repeat above balancing R and L, and stepping on R to pivot M bkwd, W fwd. This turn should be done in place (direction always CCW), the couple exchanging places to have W inside circle after first sequence of balance and pivot. On repetition of step couple returns to original places. Repeat entire step.
4. Box shuffle:  
Partners in ballroom position. M starts L, W R. The step begins as an ordinary box waltz step, M starting fwd on L ft, W bkwd on R. Step for M:  
Step fwd L (ct. 1); step side R (ct. 2); bring L to R (ct. 3);  
Step slightly sdwd R (ct. &); slide L ft to R (ct. 1); step slightly sdwd R (ct. 2); slide L to R (ct. 3).  
Step back R (ct. 1); step side L (ct. 2); bring R to L (ct. 3); step slightly sdwd L (ct. &).  
Slide R to meet L (ct. 1); step slightly sdwd L (ct. 2); bring R to L (ct. 3).  
Repeat all.

CURACAO WALTZ (continued)

Tempo 3/4

Meas.

- A 1-8 Partners side by side, R hands held, walk fwd in LOD starting outside ft, 2 steps, on 3rd pointing R ft fwd. Step fwd outside ft (ct. 1-2); step fwd inside ft (ct. 3). Step fwd outside ft (ct. 1-2) pivoting to face CW and pointing outside ft fwd. Repeat starting CW.  
Repeat all.
- 9-16 In ballroom position, waltz turning CW progressing CCW.  
1-16 Dip step and turn.
- B 1-16 Balance and pivot; repeat.  
1-16 Waltz with partner.
- A 1-16 Dip step and turn.  
1-16 Waltz.
- B 1-16 Box waltz and shuffle.  
1-16 Waltz with partner.
- A 1-16 Dip step and turn.  
1-16 Waltz.
- B 1-16 Balance and pivot.  
1-8 Box waltz and shuffle.  
9-16 Waltz to end of music turning W under arm to curtsey.

-- arranged and presented by Lisa and Walter Lekis