

HAMBO MIXER

Mixer version of traditional couple dance from Sweden

Source: As danced at Uttringe folkdance camp, Stockholm, and learned (1950) by Gordon E. Tracie. Taught at Scandia Folkdance Club, Seattle.

Recording: Musica A-8763, "Hej, hopp, min flicka" (import); 4-meas intro.
Alternate: Linden 802, "Spring Breezes"; 4-meas intro.

Formation: Any number of couples in double circle around room; LOD CCW.

Dance Posns: Open: couples facing fwd, W on M's R, inside hands joined at shoulder height, free hands on hips; Closed: shoulder-waist.

Steps: Same as those in regular Hambo (previously described).

Measures

A. Dal step, or variants:

1-2 In open position, beginning on outside foot, 2 Dal steps, or variants thereof, as described for regular Hambo.

B. Partner change and transition step:

3 Partners drop joined hands. Beginning on outside foot, M takes 3 steps fwd in LOD, progressing up to next W ahead of him, while W takes 3 steps more-ar-les in place, so as to receive new M from behind. A change of partners has now been effected.

4 With this new partner, M and W each execute own transition step as in regular Hambo (as described for Old Hambo-Polska), so that by the end of the measure closed shoulder-waist position is taken.

C. Hambo-polska closed partner turn:

5-8 Couple dances regular Hambo-polska turn (as described in "The Basic Hambo Step"), taking open position at the end of the last measure, so as to again face fwd in LOD.

Part A is then danced with present partner. A new partner change subsequently takes place in Part B, and the dance is done in like manner, partners changing at B each time.

NOTE: It is customary that for the first sequence (that is, Meas. 1-8) of the music, one dances with his/her original partner, and then begins the sequence as described above, with partner change at B. Thus the M doesn't "lose" the W he has brought on the floor before he has even had a chance to dance a turn with her.

BACKGROUND NOTES: Insofar as I know, this mixer version of the Hambo is done in Sweden only by The Friends of Swedish Folkdance (Svenska Folkdansens Vänner, "SFV"), at their summer camp in Uttringe, near Stockholm. It is never danced for exhibition, but purely for recreation.

We find at Scandia Folkdance Club in Seattle that this dance is very helpful in giving Hambo "learners" an opportunity to practice the turn with several partners, thereby profiting from others' skills. It is most important thruout, that the circle of dancers be kept as small as possible; otherwise the M will have difficulty in traversing the distance between partners in the allotted one measure of time.

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