

FOLK DANCE FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Ruth Ruling and Dorothy Tamburini

RUSSIAN QUADRILLE
QUADRILLE - POLKA

Russia

This Russian dance, with four couples to a set, is described in "Russian Quadrilles, Art Edition" published in Moscow, 1945. The tune comes from Central Russia and although the steps are not native, they have the Russian style. In this quadrille the village dancers tried to act like city people. Each woman was VERY MUCH of a lady, wearing her fancy "store boughten" dress. The men combined some "city" garments with their usual attire and danced proudly, flirting with the women.

Anatol Joukowsky presented this dance at the 1961 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: "Berzoyka Dance Ens. in Russian Dances" BR 50075, Side A, Band 1. No introduction.

FORMATION: Cpls 1 and 4 side by side, backs to music, (3) (2)
W on MR; cpl 4 to L of cpl 1. Cpls 2 and 3 W M W M
stand opp, about 6 ft away. Cpl 2 face
cpl 1; cpl 3 face cpl 4. Each W to R of ptr. M W M W
M hands hang naturally at sides. When (4) (1)
either or both hands are free, W hold skirt
lightly twd front, back of hand up. M flirt with W; keep body erect.
W be very much of a lady.

STEPS AND Walking: one step to a ct. Knees are relaxed and flexible.

STYLING: Russian Polka: A polka with the hop omitted on the upbeat, so the step actually resembles a two-step.

Walk-Polka Combination (2 meas): Walk R L (cts 1, 2); beginning R, dance 1 Russian Polka (cts 1 & 2).
Next Comb. would begin L. Used only by W. There should be a VERY slight shoulder movement on the walk; no skirt movement.

Side Balance: Step to L side with L (ct 1); close R to L, no wt (ct 2).
May begin with R to R. Take small steps, danced smoothly.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures No introduction.

I. HONORS

- 1-4 W stand in place. M, beginning R, advance to W directly opp with 6 walking steps (3 meas). Close R to L (meas 4, ct 1); bow to opp W (ct 2). Cpls 1 & 2, 3 & 4 are working together.
- 5-8 M, beginning L, walk bwd to place with 6 steps. Close ft together (meas 8, ct 1); bow to ptr (ct 2).
- 9-12 M stand in place. W, beginning R, advance to opp M with 6 walking steps. On meas 12 curtsy to opp M (R ft behind on curtsy).
- 13-16 W, beginning R, walk bwd to place with 6 steps. On meas 16 curtsy to ptr.

continued...

II. WOMEN STAR CIRCLE

- 1-4 M remain in place. W form R hand star by extending arms but do not hold hands at ctr. Using 2 Walk-Polka Comb, beginning R, circle CW 1/2 way around to diag opp M: W 1 go to M 3, W 2 to M 4, W 3 to M 1, W 4 to M 2.
- 5-8 Hook L elbows with M and circle once CCW. W use 2 Walk-Polka Comb, while M walk 8 steps, beginning R.
- 9-12 W repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) to return to ptr.
- 13-16 Hook L elbows with ptr and circle 1/2 CCW to finish in own place. W use 2 Walk-Polka Comb, while M walk 8 steps, beginning R, to finish in original pos facing opp cpl.

III. COUPLES HONOR

- 1-4 Ptrs join inside hands, elbows bent. Advance to meet opp cpl (cpl 1 to 2, etc). M use action of Fig I, meas 1-4, while W use action of Fig I, meas 9-12.
- 5-8 Walk bwd to place with 8 steps. On last 4 steps wheel 1/4 turn as a cpl, to finish in place facing adjacent cpl. Cpl 1 now faces cpl 4.
- 9-16 Repeat honors to this new cpl. Wheel 1/4 turn on last 4 cts to finish in original formation.

IV. ARCHES

- 1-4 Cpls 1 and 3 raise joined inside hands sharply (on first ct) to form arches and, beginning R, all advance to opp cpls place with 8 walking steps. Cpls 2 and 4 duck under arches. Wheel 1/4 turn at end of action to face new cpl. Cpl 1 now faces cpl 4.
- 5-8 Cpls 2 and 4 now arch sharply on first ct and, beginning R, advance to new corner with 8 walking steps. Cpls 1 and 3 duck. Finish with 1/4 turn to face new cpl. Cpl 1 now faces cpl 2.
- 9-12 Cpls 1 and 3 arch sharply. Repeat action to new corner and finish with 1/4 turn to face new cpl. Cpl 1 now faces cpl 4.
- 13-16 Cpls 2 and 4 arch and repeat action to home pos. Finish in original formation.

NOTE: During this Fig all cpls travel once around the set. Alternately arching and ducking, with cpls 1 & 3 starting the arches, cpls 1 and 3 travel CCW, cpls 2 and 4 CW.

V. PROMENADE

- 1-2 All M walk to ctr of set, R L R, close L to R. W wait in place
- 3-4 Using same ftwork, W move to stand directly behind partner. On last ct W tap M lightly on R shoulder with R hand. M stand in place.
- 5-6 Using same steps as in meas 1-2 (Fig V) M turn R to face ptr and offer R hand to her. W place R hand in M R.
- 7-8 M turn 3/4 CCW (L) under raised joined hands, while she steps L R L. On 4th step (R) release joined hands and W take MR arm with L. M meanwhile make 1/4 turn L so ptrs are facing CCW, with R shoulders twd original position.
- 9-10 Cpls walk CCW with 4 steps, beginning L.

continued...

- 11-12 With 4 more steps W move to M ahead, make 1/2 turn L and hook R arm in ML, while M makes 1/2 turn R on the 4 steps to pick up W behind.
Cpls are now M1-W4, M2-W1, M3-W2, M4-W3, all facing CW.
- 13-14 Beginning L, Cpls walk CW with 4 steps.
- 15-16 With 4 more steps W move to M ahead (original ptr), make 1/4 turn R to face ptr, no wt on last step. At the same time he turns 1/4 L to face her, his back to ctr, facing original position. Ptrs join both hands straight across, held out easily to side, slightly below shoulder level.

VI. WOMEN VISIT MEN

- 1-2 Beginning ML-WR, move out from ctr with 3 steps (cts 1,2;1) and close ft together (ct 2), no wt.
- 3-4 Moving back twd ctr, repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig VI) but begin MR-WL.
- 5 Side Balance to ML-WR.
- 6 Side Balance to MR-WL.
- 7-8 With 4 steps, beginning R, W turn once R to progress to M on her R. At the same time M, beginning L, step almost in place and join hands straight across with next W on his R.
- 9-32 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VI) 3 more times, W progressing around the set to finish with ptr in starting place, both hands joined.

VII. WOMEN CIRCLE

- 1-16 Release hands. M, beginning R, with 8 walking steps pass L shoulder with ptr and move to original place in set, turn R to face ctr of set. Stand in place for rest of Fig.
- Simultaneously W perform the following action: Beginning R, use Walk-Polka Comb 4 times to move to ctr, join hands shoulder high with elbows bent, and circle R (CCW). Circle L (CW) with 4 more Walk-Polka Comb. Finish in front of ptr, both facing ctr. W release hands and hold skirt.

VIII. MEN VISIT WOMEN

- 1-2 M, beginning R, walk 4 steps diag R to face W to R, while W turn R with 4 steps to face out of set.
- 3-4 M dance in front of new W. Stamp R (ct 1); hit L heel beside R, no wt (ct &); stamp L beside R (ct 2); hit R heel beside L, no wt (ct &). Stamp RLR (meas 4, cts 1&2); hold (ct &). No wt on last stamp R. Simultaneously, W dance 2 Side Balance steps in place, R.L. Balances are danced very smoothly and may be so small as to become a sway.
- 5-16 M repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VIII) 3 more times, while W continue Side Balance steps in place. M travel to new W on R each time. On meas 15-16, instead of stamps to own partner, join both hands straight across and both walk 3 steps to L in small circle to change places. On last ct assume ballroom pos, M back to ctr.

IX. COUPLES POLKA

- 1-16 In ballroom pos, polka with partner, turning CW and moving CCW around the set. REMAIN IN OWN SET. Keep steps small and close to floor, as this part of dance is very fast. M close heels with click to end dance.