

1965 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Gordon E. Tracie

NORSK MASURKA
(Oldtime Couple Dance from Norway)

Pronunciation: norsk mah-SOOR-ka

SOURCE: The dance here described is one of the many variations of native mazurka dances still found in Norway. Like the Swedish Hambo, it is in a sense a hybrid dance, combining the elements of an old dance form possibly stemming from the 16th century -- the Norwegian "pols" (in Swedish, "polska") -- in the basic couple turn, with more recent acquisitions from the 17th or 18th century as a pattern to precede the turn, in this case the kick-mazurka. No two areas of Norway dance the Masurka alike although similar music is used. This music, despite its resemblance to Hambo music, is properly not the same; the rhythmic intonation is slightly different. No written descriptions of the Masurka exist in Norway. The dance is not formally considered a "folkdance", but an "old-time dance" in the same category as the Vals (waltz), Polka, and Reinlendar (the Norwegian schottische).

TRANSLATION: Norwegian Mazurka. CATEGORY: Oldtime couple dance

REGION: General thruout.

SKILL LEVEL: Intermediate

MUSIC: 3/4 mazurka.

RECORD: RCA REP-356 (import EP).

RENDITION: 16 meas x 9.

TUNE TITLE: Brura på Grodås

INTRO: 4 meas.

DURATION: 3:05

FORMATION: Any number of cpls in circle, LOD CCW.

POSITION: Open shldr-wst, free hand on hip common Norwegian style (thumb fwd, fingers back); Common closed posn, with arms held straight out from shldr.

FOOTWORK: Opp thruout: Kick-mazurka (described below), running steps, Norwegian Pols turn (described below).

CHARACTER: Relaxed yet with great verve.

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A. Mazurka & open turn, 2x:

- 1-2 In open posn, facing fwd, bgng on outside ft, 2 kick-mazurka steps fwd in LOD.
 3-4 Maintaining same posn, one turn arnd CW in place with 6 small running steps.
 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

B. Pols turn:

- 9-16 In closed posn, bgng on M's L and W's R ft, 8 Pols steps turning CW to make 8 full turns, and progressing fwd in LOD. Repeat entire sequence 1-16 as many times as music allows.

Step descriptions:Kick-Mazurka step (as danced in Norsk masurka):

This is essentially a fwd-moving mazurka step, but without the usual cross-over of the free foot. M's step is as follows, W exactly opp:

- cnt 1 = step fwd on L;
 cnt 2 = cl R to L, at same time kicking L fwd (knee straight);
 cnt 3 = skip fwd on R, at same time bringing L back (knee bent and ankle straight so that toe points down).

Norwegian Pols step:

This turning step, like the polska turn used in the Hambo and Snurrbocken of Sweden, is repetitive, and makes one full revolution per measure. The rhythmic intonation is different, however. Rather than the even "bounce" on every beat as in Snurrbocken, or the decided "dip" on the 1st beat as in the Hambo, the Norwegian Pols tends to have a slight emphasis on the 3rd beat of each meas of the turn.

M's step

- cnt 1 = begin pivot on L;
 cnt 2 = land on both feet, continuing pivot on L;
 cnt 3 = pivot on R.

W's step

- cnt 1 = land on both feet, R ft leading;
 cnt 2 = pivot on R;
 cnt 3 = pivot on L.