

MOSKROSSER (Denmark)

No one country can truly claim the *Moskrosser*, for dances similar to it appear in almost all European countries. The following is one popular version of the dance.

OPENING FORMATION: Two couples to a set, one couple facing the other, arranged in sets around the circle so that one couple faces clockwise, the other counterclockwise. Number the couples facing clockwise #1, and the others #2.

THE STEP: A schottische step is used throughout the dance, consisting of three walking steps and a hop. Starting on the left foot, the step is done—left, right, left, hop on left foot; and, of course, just the reverse when starting with the right. Each dance sequence begins with the man starting on left, lady on right foot.

PART 1: Couple #1 moves forward, holding hands, in between couple #2, with two schottische steps. At the same time couple #2 drops hands and moves forward with two schottische steps, going on the outside of couple #1.

All move backwards to place. Couple #1 drops hands and takes two schottische steps, going on the outside of couple #2. Couple #2 at the same time dances backwards in between couple #1.

PART 2: Ladies chain with 8 schottische steps: two ladies pass each other with a touch of right hands, using two schottische steps.

Give left hands to opposite man who puts right arm around lady's waist, both turning counterclockwise in place, with 2 schottische steps. Ladies give right hands once more in center, passing with 2 schottische steps, while giving left hands to own partner, who turns them around in place counterclockwise, with 2 schottische steps.

PART 3: All four dancers form a right-hand star by placing right hands in center and moving around their set clockwise with 4 schottische steps. Then form a left-hand star and do 4 schottische steps in the other direction.

PART 4: Couples face each other; partners hold inside hands. Each dancer takes one schottische step away from partner, man to left, lady to right. Then take another schottische step towards partner. Couples now take shoulder-waist position. (Man puts both hands on lady's waist, as she places hands on his shoulders.) Couples turn clockwise, but move counterclockwise around the other couple, to change places with them, using 4 step-hops to do so. Immediately, face the new couple with whom you will now repeat the dance. Note that in changing, all couples will continue to progress around the circle in the direction they are facing at the start of the dance.

Incidentally, this music is also good for the teaching or dancing of a plain schottische.

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