

Presented by Elinor Mackenzie Vandegrift

POLKA COUNTRY DANCE
Scotland

This reel, as edited by the RSCDS from it's source (Allan, Mozart. Reference Guide to the Ballroom. Glasgow, c1880-1890), is one of an entire genre of dances which dates from the end of the Eighteenth Century and lasted into living memory, all of which end in "down and back, poussette." The fourth figure of this dance, the "polka" poussette, is a new interpretation of the poussette which has remained standard within dances of the RSCDS since it's inception ("Petronella" in Book 1, 1924) until 1975 ("Tayport Beauty" and "Burns' Hornpipe" in book 27). Their older (1923) interpretation includes two other dances from Allen's Reference Guide ("Jenny Come Down to Jock" and "The Rock and the Wee Pickle Tow" in book 3, 1926).*

MUSIC: Diamond Jubilee 1923-1983. Royal Scottish Country Dance Music for Eight Scottish Country Dances, Book 31. Rob Gordon and His Band (RSCDS12). R.S.C.D.S., 12 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3-7AF (Scotland), 1983. Side 1, Band 4 - 4'39" or mml10 (slow- the RSCDS standard would be 3'25 or mml16).

FORMATION: Longways set for four couples. Each cpl (except the 4th) performs the dance three times, ending at the bottom with a new top cpl (after a wait of one turn) starting every second repetition.

STEPS: Skip change of step is used throughout unless a setting step or polka is indicated. Hop on L as R extends fwd, step on R fwd, close L to R heel, step on R fwd.

Pas de basque (PDB) is used when setting is indicated, in which case two steps are required (bars 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 13-14). Step R to R, close L to R instep, step on R as L extends diag L fwd.

Polka step is standard except W begin on L, M R (bars 25-32).

PATTERNS: **The polka poussette (see polka step) is a modern reconstruction of the RSCDS. It is an eight bar progressive figure (bars 25-32).

Bar 25 - Cpls 1 & 2 dance into the ctr to take waltz hold (ballroom pos) with ptr, positioning at the end of the bar so that the two cpls are on a diagonal from top L to bottom R (M back to back).

26 - As 1st cpl dances diag down and out to the M side of the set, the 2nd cpl does the same out to the W side.

27 - 1st & 2nd cpl dance diag into the ctr of the set having changed places.

Continued...

28-30 - Cpl 1 & 2 polka turn 1-1/2 times ending with 1st cpls back to the opp (improper) side of the set, except on third repetition.

31-32 - Cpl 1 & 2 retire (fall back) to the side lines (two polka steps), 1st cpl end on opp (improper) side of set.

METER: 2/4 (Reel) PATTERN

Meas (Bars)

There are two chords to begin with. On the second chord 1st cpl changes to the opp side of the set where they remain until they reach the bottom pos, where they finish the "polka" poussette on the proper side.

1-4 As 1st M & 2nd W set to and change places (taking R hands in passing), 1st W & 2nd M do the same

5-8 1st & 2nd cpls set to ptrs and cross over (taking R hands in passing).

9-12 Repeat bars 1-4 on the opp side of set.

13-16 Repeat bars 5-8 ending in original places.

17-24 1st cpl (with R hands joined) lead down the middle (four steps) and back to orig place.

25-32 1st & 2nd cpls change places using the "polka"poussette.**

Repeat having passed a cpl (13 14&23 24 34&21 31 41&32 42).

CUES: 1-2 set turn 1/2 R / 1,2 set cross R // repeat //
1 down & back // (polka) poussette //

*Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Pub. Diamond Jubilee 1923-1983: The Scottish Country Dance Book 31. London: Patterson's Publications Ltd., 1983. Goss, Richard. "Computer Analysis of the Scottish Allemande and Pousette", in Buckland, Theresa, Ed. Traditional Dance, v3. Crewe (England); Crewe & Alsager College of Further Education, 1984.

Dance notes by Richard Goss