

Scotch Measure

(Scotland)

Twosome or Solo Dance. This description includes only selected steps recognized in this dance. For Twasomes, see notes at end. This dance is believed to have been composed in the 18th Century as a twosome. It was later introduced in Continental Europe, where it became known as “Der Schottische” in Germany and “Le Scottish” in France. In the Western Isles, a variation known as “The Stealing Dance” is sometimes done in which two partners dance together facing another couple, during which a M jumps in and “steals” another M’s partner.

Music: *Mostly Step, with a Little Ceilidh*, Band 4. 4/4 meter

Formation: Individuals or twosomes.

Steps and Arms: W hold skirt with both hands. M use standard Highland arms.

Hop & travel: 2nd

Plie & turn: 2nd, until extension after disassemble, then 1st position during the turn

Bouree: 3rd, when danced without turn; 1st, when danced with turn.

Pas de basque: 1st position.

Plie and Turn: With R ft: Assemble in demi-plie (both knees bent) with R ft in 3rd (ct1); disassemble onto L ft, extending R ft to 2nd aerial (ct 2); hop L ft, then bouree under (behind, side, front) from R ft, making one complete turn on the spot (cts &,3 &,4). The turn does not start until after the extension to 2nd aerial position.

With L ft: As above, but contra (with opp ftwk).

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

- 1-4 Stand in 1st position (1-8).
- 5-6 Step to 2nd with R ft, then bow (M) or curtsy (W) (1-4).
- 7-8 Step back to place with L ft and point R ft in 4th intermediate (5-8).

STEP 1: HOP & TRAVEL

- 1-4 Traveling toward 4th intermediate, dance Hop and Travel movement twice with R ft (cts 1,&,2, 3,&,4); plie and turn with R ft (cts 5,6, 7,&,8).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, contra (with opp ftwk and direction).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

STEP 2: BRUSH/ASSEMBLE

- 1-2 Assemble with R ft in 3rd, having brushed R ft outwards towards 2nd aerial during the elevation (ct 1); disassemble, traveling towards 4th intermediate, to land on R ft, with L ft extended to 4th intermediate rear aerial (ct 2); hop R ft, then bouree under (cts &,3, &,4).
- 3-6 Repeat bars 1-2 twice more.

Scotch Measure—continued

- 7-8 Plie and turn with R ft (1,2, &3, &4).
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, contra (with opp ftwk).

STEP 3: PAS DE BASQUE

- 1-4 Pas de derriere (using slight elevation) with R ft, traveling diagonally forward toward 4th intermediate on the commencing spring (cts 1,&2); pas de basque (using slight elevation) with L ft, moving bkwd twd 4th intermediate rear, to end at same place the step was started (3,&4); plie and turn with R ft (5,6, &7, &8).
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 contra (with opp ftwk).
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

STEP 4: HOP & TRAVEL

- 1-16 Repeat 1st step, but travel twd forward 2nd, rather than 4th intermediate.

For twasomes, the Break is danced at meas 17-32 of the 1st step and last step. Throughout the dance and introduction, M & W stand side-by-side, with W on M's R. Except when both are simultaneously dancing a complete turn, W's L hand is in M's R hand. When both are simultaneously dancing a turn, the hands are released when the turn starts and rejoined when it is completed. When, in the Break, one is dancing a complete turn while the other stands, the hold is loose, in order to allow for the turn.

THE BREAK (16 BARS):

While M stands for 6 meas (12 counts) in 1st position, W dances plie & turn with R ft (cts 1,2, &3, &4); plie & turn with L ft (5, 6, &7, &8); plie & turn with R ft (1, 2, &3, &4). Then, BOTH dance plie & turn with L ft (5, 6, &7, &8). While W stands for 6 bars (12 counts), M dances plie & turn with R ft, L ft, R ft, then BOTH dance plie & turn with L ft.

Presented by Kamrin MacKnight