

ÅLANDSFlickan (THE GIRL FROM ÅLAND)  
(Finland-Sweden)

Ålandsflickan (Oh-lahnds flick-ään), The Åland Girl, is a folk couple dance from Finland. It is from the region of Kimito, Åboland. Deceptively simple, requiring a certain agility, here is a short polka variant from the Åland Islands, in the northern Baltic Sea. Although territorially a part of Finland, this archipelago has been inhabited by Swedes - not time immemorial, and Swedish is still the official language there. In 1954 Åland was granted the right to its own flag, for use on the islands only. Like the flag of Sweden, it is light blue with a yellow cross, but with a thin red cross superimposed. Finnish nationals of Swedish descent, such as those on Åland, refer to themselves as "Finland-svenskar" (Finland-Swedes), and to the Finnish-speaking people of Suomi (Finland) as "pur-finnar" (pure Finns).

Source: Described in "Suomalainen Kisapirtti" ("Finska Lekstugan"), Helsinki, 1905.

Record: Swedish RCA FAS 665

Formation: For any number of cpls, moving fwd in LOD. Open pos, free hands on hips, closed waltz pos. Footwork is opp throughout.

Steps: Two-Step, Polka

Styling: Lively and with determination.

Measures      Pattern  
(2/4)

I. Open Steps Fwd

- 1 Cpls in circle, ptrs facing one another (M facing LOD, W RLOD), free hands on hips, beg on outside ft, a two-step fwd, with a little hop much like a polka step.
- 2 Beg on inside ft, a similar two-step fwd.
- 3 Beg on outside ft, 2 fast (double-time) two-steps fwd.
- 4 Beg on outside ft, a straight time two-step fwd, as in meas 1.
- 5 - 8 Beg on opp ft throughout, repeat the action of meas 1-4 (Fig I).

II. Polka Turn

- 9 - 16 Taking ordinary closed waltz pos, and beg on M L ft, 8 polka steps turning CW, and moving fwd in LOD.

Repeat the action of meas 1-16 from beg as many times as desired.

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