

GUSTAV'S SKOAL

(Swedish)

SOURCE: I learned this dance in 1956 when I first started dancing.

MUSIC: Linden 701A - Gustav's Skoal.  
Methodist World of Fun  
Columbia (British) DB-1800 Meter: 2/4

FORMATION: Four couples in square set, head couples have their backs to or are facing the music. The other two couples are the sides. Each couple's inside hands joined at shoulder height. Free hands always on hips, with fingers fwd, thumb back.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

4 meas. Introduction.

I. FORWARD AND BACK

1-2 Head couples, beginning on outer foot, walk 4 steps toward one another, giving a slight "compliment" or nod to opposite on last beat.

3-4 Return to place with 4 walking steps bwd, "complimenting" to partner on last beat.

5-8 Side couples perform same action as above (cts 1-4).

1-8 Entire figure repeated.

II. ARCHES

9-12 Side couples form an arch with inside hands; head couples walk toward one another, separate from own partner, take opposite person by inside hand and go through nearest arch (to M's L, W's R), separate on outside and return to own places to rejoin partner. NOTE: All this must be done in 8 walking steps.

Head couples immediately skip around in a CW circle with their own partner - hands are joined to make a small circle.

13-16 Head couples form arch, and side couples dance through as above, followed by side couples skipping around.

Repeat entire dance from beginning.

NOTE: The above routine is greatly enlivened by making the dance, in accordance with traditional practice in certain parts of Sweden, a semi-mixer. This is done by allowing extra boys or girls from the side-lines to "cut in" just when two partners separate to pass through the arch (Fig II), and before they have time to come around back to home place. The former boy or girl is thus without a partner until the next time the arch is formed, when he or she can either take back their original partner or find a new one. Likewise, a couple from the side lines may "steal" the place of a dancing couple just at this point by jumping into their home place before either of the other two have time to return from the arch.

Presented by Bruce Mitchell