

Gustaf's Skoal

(Sweden)

This is a popular Swedish dance sometimes known as Gustav's Toast. The name is derived from the fact that Gustaf was a favorite king of Sweden and the word Skoal mean originally a toast or a formal salute which is a characteristic feature of the first part of the dance. According to some authorities, Figure II of Gustaf's Skoal represents the Swedish peasant's notion of formal, court dances executed by noblemen while Figure I represents the peasant's own idea of fun in dance. Certainly the movements in Figure I are slow, dignified, and formal in contrast to the gayer and more carefree spirit of those in Figure II.

Formation: A square of four couples with the M on L of partner. Partners have inside hands joined at shoulder level with outside hands on hips, fingers forward.

Measure Pattern

Figure I

- 1-2 1,2,1 Side couples stand in place, while head couples begin R to advance toward center of set with 3 walking steps (R, L, R).
 2 M "bob" toward opposite partner by bringing feet together and nodding head while W curtsey, placing L toe behind R heel and nodding to opposite partner..
- 3-4 1,2,1 Head couples return to places with 3 walking steps bkwd (L, R, L).
 2 Close R foot to L.
- 5-8 Head couples stand in place, while side couples repeat movements did in meas 1-4.
- 1-8 Repeat all so that head couples and side couples, in turn, advance to center and retire to places.

Figure II *

- 9-10 1&,2& Side couples form arches by raising joined hands, outside hands on hips, while head couples, inside hands joined, outside hands on hips, begin to R to dance fwd twd center of the set with 4 skip steps (R, H. R, L).
- 11-12 1&,2& Partners separate to join inside hands with opposite partners, outside hands on hips, and progress fwd and under arches formed by side couples with 4 skip steps (R, L, R, L). *turning face to side couples*
- 13-16 1&,2& Opposite partners separate immediately, and cast off to M's L, etc. W's R, to join own partners in original positions in square, clapping own hands together on ct 1 of meas 13 and immediately joining both hands with partner to turn CW in place, pulling away from each other, with 8 skip steps.
- 9-16 Side couples repeat movements in meas 9-16, head couples forming arches.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.

* NOTE: Individuals not dancing can get into a square by occupying one of the dancer's positions when they are doing figure II