

From the FOLK DANCER RECORD SERIES
directed by Michael Herman
Record FOLK DANCER MH 1059
American-Russian Couple Dance

Korobushka

FORMATION: Couples around the ring with partners facing each other. Man's back is to center of ring. Both hands are joined.

PART 1: A schottische step is used in this figure. MAN starts on the LEFT foot and moves forward with 1 schottische step which is L,R,L, hop on left foot (1,2,3, hop). At the same time LADY moves backwards the same way, except that she starts on the RIGHT foot and does R,L,R, hop on R foot.

Repeat the same schottische step, this time the man goes backwards with a R,L,R, hop on R foot as the lady moves forward with a L,R,L hop on L foot.

Repeat once more with man going forward, L,R,L, hop on L foot as lady moves backwards with a R,L,R, hop on R foot. This makes for 3 schottische steps in all from the beginning.

Now the man steps back on Right foot for count 1, points Left toe to Left side for count 2. Then brings L foot down beside R foot for count 3. Lady does the same step but she steps forward on Left foot, points Right toe to Right, then brings Right foot down beside Left foot.

NOTE
PART 2:

Drop joined hands. Move to own Right around rim of circle with a R,L,R hop on R foot, swinging Left foot over Right. Hands are held spread out at shoulder level naturally. Move to own Left with a Left, Right, Left. Hop on Left foot swinging Right over Left. Give Right hand to partner. Hold Left hand high and step-hop forward to partner, then step-hop away from partner. Change places with partner with 3 walking steps. Drop hands, and repeat part 2 once more in new position. At the end of part you should be back in starting positions.

This dance is usually done as a mixer (change partner dance) To do so, each dancer moves one place over to the Left and repeats dance with new partner.

NOTE: This dance originated around the turn of the century in the United States when Russian immigrants composed the dance to an old Russian folk song. The dance later found its way back to Russia too and has become a traditional ballroom type of folk dance. The word Korobushka means a sort of "pack" usually carried by peddlers. English translations of the words are found in many folk song books.

Incidentally the above description is the traditional way of doing the dance. In some areas in the United States, where folks don't care about traditions, they add claps and twirls in the second part which truly detracts from the social character and charm of the dance. Such clapping and twirling is in bad taste and is not indulged in by GOOD dancers. Good teachers and leaders will discourage such tampering with this dance. In native circles KOROBUSHKA is sometimes done in lines rather in a circle formation and in such formation, there is no change of partners.

DANCE DIRECTIONS from FOLK DANCE HOUSE, 103 West 16 St. New York City-11
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Michael Herman, Director