

1920s LINDY HOP

United States

The transition from the Charleston to the Lindy Hop as danced by Shorty Snowden and fellow Savoy Ballroom dancers in the late twenties. Researched by Richard Powers.

MUSIC: Charleston or 1920s classic jazz

METER: 4/4 time

TEMPO: Approximately 100 bpm.

FORMATION: Couples in closed Ballroom position (the man may hold her R hand close to his left side, near his spleen).

STEPS:

Basic Charleston Lindy Step

Counts 1-2: He steps side L. Ct 3: cross R closely behind L, rocking back on it. Count 4: Return weight to L foot in place. S-QQ timing. Repeat to the other side, beginning side R. Woman begins with side R. This may slightly turn in place CW or CCW.

Turning Basic:

Turn as a couple a full rotation CW. On count 1, she steps straight forward R, between his feet, in Closed Position. The lady no longer rocks behind on counts 3-4, but does two quick running steps traveling around him, side L and slightly crossing R over L. Her 2nd bar is the Basic above, with the rock step.

Push-Pull:

On counts 7-8 (rock step), push back away from partner with hands, keeping other arms in Closed Position.

Sidekick:

Same as the Push-Pull, but the man kicks his L foot out to the left side on count 7 instead of doing the rock step.

Heel Rock:

On counts 7-8, he lets go of her with his R arm, keeping held hands, as they both rock back onto their heels, in swing-out position (at arms-length) He may throw his R wrist up.

Brush-Off:

He turns solo 3/4 to his left as she goes around his back CW. Return to closed position for the rock step. As he leads her around himself, his L hand wraps around his own neck or shoulder before letting go.

Scissors:

On count 5, he twists sharply to his left, opening her away to the right, crossing his R over his left, weight on both feet evenly. He slides or jumps into second position (feet apart) on count 4, with weight mostly on his R.

Charleston Kicks:

On count 3, he lifts his R forward to the right side as she swings her L back. This replaces the rock step. On count 7, he kicks his L back as she swings her R forward. This may turn in place CCW.

© 1993, 1997 Richard Powers

Presented by Richard Powers
San Diego Statewide 1999
May 29-30, 1999