

OKRĄC SO WKÓŁ ("Turn Yourself Around")

Pronunciation: oh-krontz soh fkoow

Record: DR-8310 available from Ada Dziewanowska

Couple dance in 3/4 time from Kaszuby, in Pomorze (Pomerania), the Baltic Sea region of Poland. It is a "ladies' choice" dance. It originated from the fact that when at a festivity the boys were too shy to ask the girls to dance with them, the girls took the initiative and teased the boys with the following song:

<u>Kaszuby Dialect</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>English Translation</u>
Okrać so wkół,	Oh-kronts soh fkoow	Turn yourself around,
Nie stoj jak wół,	nye stoozy yahk voov	Don't stand there like an ox,
Wez dziewczę w pól,	vehz dzehf-ehh fpoow	Take the girl by the waist
Krać so z nią wkół.	kronts soh znyohm fkoow	And turn around with her.

....and a dance was created. Due to the geographical location the dance reflects Scandinavian influence. It has a slow and fast melody, "A" and "B".

Starting Position: Man stands or sits, assuming a nonchalant or shy attitude. Woman is in front of him, hands on her hips.

FIGURE Ia (Melody A) (Cue: "Turn - Hold - Bow - Hold")

- Meas. 1 With 3 steps, R-L-R, woman turns once in place CW, extending her R arm out to the side.
- Meas. 2 Facing man, she closes Lft to Rft and pauses, feet together, placing hands on her hips.
- Meas. 3 Woman makes a deep curtsy, stepping back onto Lft, bending L knee, with R leg straight in front; she extends her arms to the side.
- Meas. 4 Same as Meas. 2.
- Meas. 5 Same pattern as Meas. 1, with opposite footwork and direction.
- Meas. 6-8 Same pattern as Meas. 2-4.

FIGURE Ib (Melody A repeated)

- Meas. 1 With 3 steps, R-L-R, woman steps up to man,
- Meas. 2 Hold as meas. 2 above, and...
- Meas. 3-4 Without doing any steps herself, attempts to "get him started" into the dance by grasping his shoulders several times, and making him spin around to his R once each time.
- Meas. 5-6 With 6 steps (or fewer, depending on space available), woman takes man by both hands and pulls him into the circle.
- Meas. 7-8 Same pattern as Meas. 3-4 of Figure Ib. Partners end facing each other (man facing toward center), both have their hands on own hips.

FIGURE II (Melody B)

- Meas. 1 Facing each other, hands on own hips, man and woman each step to own R with Rft, swinging L up across in front of R and hop on Rft.
- Meas. 2 Same as Meas. 1 of this Figure, with opposite footwork and direction
- Meas. 3 Step-close to R with Rft (putting weight on Lft).
- Meas. 4 Same as Meas. 1 of this Figure.
- Meas. 5-8 Same pattern as Meas. 1-4, with opposite footwork and direction.
- Music and dance-pattern are repeated.

(Continued.....)

FIGURE III (Melody A)

- Meas. 1-4 Woman does the same "Turn-hold-bow-hold" pattern as in Figure Ia, Meas. 1-4. Man does same pattern as woman, with opposite foot work and direction in Meas. 1-2 (his L arm extended out to side on the "Turn") and with same footwork in meas. 3-4.
- Meas. 5 Take shoulder-waist position and move toward center with 3 steps (man forward R-L-R, woman L-R-L backing up).
- Meas. 6 Same pattern as Meas. 5, but with opposite footwork and direction.
- Meas. 7-8 With 4 steps and a hold, couple makes a one-and-a-half turn CW, R shoulders turned toward each other. Partners end facing each other (this time man facing toward wall), both have their hands on own hips.

Music and dance-pattern are repeated, with the exception that at the end they do only a full turn and end facing LOD, hands in skater's position.

FIGURE IV (Melody B)

- Meas. 1 Both starting with Rft, move fwd in LOD with 2 running steps and a hop (R-L-hop).
- Meas. 2 Same as Meas. 1
- Meas. 3-4 Couple pivots in place CCW with 6 steps.
- Meas. 5-8 Same pattern as Meas. 1-4.
- Music and dance-pattern are repeated. End facing each other, hands on own hips

FIGURE V (Melody A)

Same as Figure III, only the man starts inside and ends on the outside of the circle, and the woman the opposite. Partners end facing each other with their hands on own hips.

FIGURE VI (Melody B)

- Meas. 1 Man and woman do in place 3 quick stamps and a hop starting with the Rft (RLR-hop; cts. 1 & 2-3).
- Meas. 2 Same pattern as Meas. 1 but with opposite footwork.
- Meas. 3-4 With 6 running steps, beginning Rft, they exchange places, passing R shoulders, ending facing each other.
- Meas. 5-8 Same pattern as Meas. 1-4.
- Music and dance-pattern are repeated.

FIGURE VII (Melody A)

Same as Figure III. End with all the dancers in a ring holding hands.

FIGURE VIII (Melody B)

- Meas. 1-2 Same pattern as Meas. 1-2 of Figure II, but in a circle.
- Meas. 3-4 All run 6 steps CCW, slightly lowering bodies.
- Meas. 5-8 Repeat pattern of Meas. 1-4.
- Music and dance-pattern are repeated.

If you want to do the dance once more, men make an inside circle facing out, women an outside circle facing in. Men stand in their debonaire or "shy" positions, while women do 2 sets of "turn-hold-bow-hold" sequence described in Figure Ia, moving, however, to the R throughout. The second man a woman faces will be her partner for the rest of the dance.

Dance introduced in 1971 by Ada & Jaś Dzielanowski, who learned it in Tuchola, Poland, from Kazimierz Przybylski, an expert Kaszuby dancer. Notes prepared with assistance of Dick Crum. Please do not reproduce them without Ada's permission: 41 Katherine Road, Watertown, Mass. 02172, tel. (617)923-9061.