

SCHOTTIS PARA DOS PAREJAS

(SCOTTIS FOR TWO COUPLES)

MEXICO

Scottis Para Dos Parejas (Pa-ra Dos Pa-ray-has) was learned in Mexico from Rafael Chessal, Mexican dancer, artist, and schoolteacher, by Henry "Buzz" Glass, who introduced it at University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California, 1961.

It's component parts are reminiscent of the schottis danced in Mexico at the turn of the century. The dance may still be seen at fiestas and holiday celebrations. It is unaffected in its stylization, using a basic Mexican Schottis with its hearty, earthy quality. Although the schottis was an importation, it soon was marked by those characteristics and qualities which stamp it unmistakably Mexican, including body posturing and quality of movement.

MUSIC: Record: ASP 120 A, "El Barretero"

FORMATION: Performed in units of two cpls (dos parejas) placed informally about the floor. Ptrs face, joined hands outstretched to the side about chest height. Cpls stand about six feet apart, M with L shoulder twd opp W. During the figures, cpls dance around each other, twd each other, to and away from each other, or on a diag.

STEPS AND STYLING: Basic Mexican Schottis: Move to M L, lift L ft about six inches from floor with toe pointed downward (ct &), step L to L side (ct 1), step R across L (ct 2), step L to L side (ct 3), hop on L (ct 4). Knees are kept slightly bent on the schottis; there is almost a feeling of a chug on the step-hop, with a slight pulling of the hips. Lower lead hands over lead ft. W dance counterpart. Step-hop* (During step-hops, M clasp hands behind back, W hold skirt, wrists turned slightly fwd). Step close*

* Described in Volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 150 Powell Street, San Francisco 2, California.

MUSIC 4/4**PATTERN**

Measures No Introduction

I. DIAMOND - SCHOTTIS & STEP HOPS

- A 1** Cpls start on opp corners of diamond. Lower lead hands; with one schottis step move CCW to first corner of diamond, M pass back to back. On step-hop (ct 4), make 1/2 turn CW to proceed along second side of diamond. (M is now on outside, W on inside).
- 2** Repeat action of meas 1 to second corner of diamond; reverse ftwork (M begin R, W L) and hand pos.
- 3-4** Repeat action of meas 1-2 to end in original pos. Drop joined hands.
- Note:** There is one schottis step to each side of diamond, with a change of direction on ct 4 (step-hop).
M clasp joined hands behind back, W hold skirt. Bend fwd slightly from waist.
- 5-6** M turn L, W-R in place with 3 step-hops and a tap-hop. (Step L (ct 1), hop L (ct 2), step R (ct 3), hop R (ct 4); step L (ct 1) hop L (ct 2), tap R lightly (ct 3), hop L (ct 4).
- 7-8** Repeat action of meas 5-6; reverse direction and ftwork (M begin R, turn R, WL, turn L).

II. SCOTTIS COMBINATION

Ptrs join hands outstretched, chest height.

- 1** Schottis swd twd opposite cpl, meet in ctr of diamond.
- 2** Schottis swd away from opposite cpl.
- 3** Repeat action of meas 1.
- 4** Ptrs drop hands; with 2 step-hops make one turn away from each other (M-R, L, W-L, R) to end in original pos.

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(continued)

- 5-8 Ptrs rejoin hands to repeat action of meas 1-4; reverse ftwork and direction, M beginning R, W-L; move away from opp cpl. End in original pos.

III. DIAMOND AND SCHOTTIS COMBINATION

- B 1-8 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-8.
9-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8.

IV. HALF DIAMOND - SCHOTTIS FWD, STAMP

- A 1-2 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-2, to face directly twd ctr of diamond.
3 Schottis swd twd opp cpl.
4 With 3 heavy stamping steps (hold on ct 4), move directly away from opp cpl. Hands remain joined and outstretched.
5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 to complete diamond. End in original pos.

V. THE CROSS - CHANGING PATTERNS

- C 1-3 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-3. Drop ptrs hands on ct 4 of meas 3.
4 M take hands of opp W, cpl make 1/4 turn R and schottis away from opp cpl. Dancers have now covered 1/4 of the cross.
5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three more times, to complete cross and end in original pos. Drop hands.

VI. STEP HOP - TURN AWAY

- D 1-2 With 2 step-hops swd twd opp cpl (M-L, R; W-R, L) complete one turn L, W-R; face ptr, step-hop, tap hop in place.
3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2; reverse direction and ftwork. End in original pos.
5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 three more times.

VII. STEP CLOSE AND TAP

- E 1 In closed pos, with two step-close-steps, M begin L, W-R, move swd first corner of diamond; M pass back to back.
2 M step swd L and tap R toe twice beside L, no wt; W opp ftwork.
3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2; reverse direction and ftwork (M begin R, W-L). End in original pos.
5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2, moving in small CCW circle. M back around.
7-8 Repeat action of meas 5-6; reverse direction and ftwork. End in original pos.
9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8

VIII. THE HALF CROSS

- C 1-8 Repeat action of Fig V, meas 1-4 twice. Travel half way around the cross. End opp original pos with own ptr.

XI. DIAMOND AND SCHOTTIS COMBINATION

- A 1-8 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-8 (Schottis and Step-hops).
B 9-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8 (Schottis combination).

X. FINALE - (HALF DIAMOND)

- A 1-8 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-8; on last 3 stamps, M place hands behind back, W hold skirt to side, face each other as music ends.

NOTE: Cpls will end in opp place from starting pos, with own ptr.