

THE CASTLE SCHOTTISCHE
(U.S.A.)

Music: R. Powers special cassette ^{A/5} 4/4 meter

Unlike most ragtime-era dances, which were usually improvised combinations of characteristic steps, this dance was taught as a specific sequence. It appeared simply as the "SCHOTTISCHE - as taught at the Castle School of Dancing," in the 1915 booklet "Victor Records for Dancing." Later that year it was described as THE CASTLE SCHOTTISCHE in the Philadelphia dance manual "Dancing Without a Master."

Introduction: 16 measures.

Position: Both dancers face LOD and take Skater's Position with the lady on the right. Both the gent and the lady commence with their right feet. *See illustration at right. In class, my hand was on w's waist, hers on top of his.*



- A1 Do a Two-Step fwd to the R: Glide R fwd diag to the R; close L to R; glide R fwd diag again; swing L across the R.
- A2 The same Two-Step done fwd diag to the L, beg L.
- B Walk fwd R, swing the L fwd (low swing); walk fwd L, swing the R fwd; repeat both for a total of 4 step-swings. As you take the fourth step, keep L hands only and turn 1/4 twd ptr.
- C1 Facing ptr, do a Two-Step (R,close L,R) directly to your R side (not fwd), retaining ptrs L hand as they Two-Step away from you.
- C2 Two-Step to L side, beg L, dropping L hands and catching ptrs R hand with your own as you pass in front of each other.
- D Keeping R hands, both walk 3 steps fwd (R,L,R) to exchange places with each other. On the 4th ct, touch the L toe lightly to the floor without wt, to help prevent the tendency to take 4 steps here. On this last ct, the lady remains facing LOD while the man swivels a half-turn to his R, to fall in behind his ptr in reverse Skater's Pos (he is at her R, with his L arm behind her back).
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- A&B Repeat the first two sequences, beg with the L. All ftwk will be opp from above.
- C Repeat the side Two-Step beg to L side with the L, then to the R and ending by catching L hands.
- D Keeping L hands both walk 3 step fwd (L,R,L) to return to orig pos. The gent pivots to his L on the last ct to regain Skater's Position.
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Repeat the sequence. The style of dancing should be relaxed, with just a touch of elegance.

NOTE: This dance most likely evolved into the "Salty Dog Rag" that is done by folk dancers today.

Notes by R. Powers 2/88

Presented by Melanie & Richard Powers