

# Scotch Measure

(Scotland)

Twosome or Solo Dance. This description includes only selected steps recognized in this dance. For Twasomes, see notes at end. This dance is believed to have been composed in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century as a twosome. It was later introduced in Continental Europe, where it became known as “Der Schottische” in Germany and “Le Scottish” in France. In the Western Isles, a variation known as “The Stealing Dance” is sometimes done in which two partners dance together facing another couple, during which a M jumps in and “steals” another M’s partner.

Music: *Mostly Step, with a Little Ceilidh*, Band 4. 4/4 meter

Formation: Individuals or twosomes.

Steps and Arms: W hold skirt with both hands. M use standard Highland arms.

Hop & travel: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Plie & turn: 2<sup>nd</sup>, until extension after disassemble, then 1<sup>st</sup> position during the turn

Bouree: 3<sup>rd</sup>, when danced without turn; 1<sup>st</sup>, when danced with turn.

Pas de basque: 1<sup>st</sup> position.

Plie and Turn: With R ft: Assemble in demi-plie (both knees bent) with R ft in 3<sup>rd</sup> (ct1); disassemble onto L ft, extending R ft to 2<sup>nd</sup> aerial (ct 2); hop L ft, then bouree under (behind, side, front) from R ft, making one complete turn on the spot (cts &,3 &,4). The turn does not start until after the extension to 2<sup>nd</sup> aerial position.

With L ft: As above, but contra (with opp ftwk).

## Meas

## Pattern

### INTRODUCTION

- 1-4 Stand in 1<sup>st</sup> position (1-8).
- 5-6 Step to 2<sup>nd</sup> with R ft, then bow (M) or curtsy (W) (1-4).
- 7-8 Step back to place with L ft and point R ft in 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate (5-8).

### STEP 1: HOP & TRAVEL

- 1-4 Traveling toward 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate, dance Hop and Travel movement twice with R ft (cts 1,&,2, 3,&,4); plie and turn with R ft (cts 5,6, 7,&,8).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, contra (with opp ftwk and direction).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

### STEP 2: BRUSH/ASSEMBLE

- 1-2 Assemble with R ft in 3<sup>rd</sup>, having brushed R ft outwards towards 2<sup>nd</sup> aerial during the elevation (ct 1); disassemble, traveling towards 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate, to land on R ft, with L ft extended to 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate rear aerial (ct 2); hop R ft, then bouree under (cts &,3, &,4).
- 3-6 Repeat bars 1-2 twice more.

## Scotch Measure—continued

- 7-8 Plie and turn with R ft (1,2, &3, &4).  
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, contra (with opp ftwk).

STEP 3: PAS DE BASQUE

- 1-4 Pas de derriere (using slight elevation) with R ft, traveling diagonally forward toward 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate on the commencing spring (cts 1,&2); pas de basque (using slight elevation) with L ft, moving bkwd twd 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate rear, to end at same place the step was started (3,&4); plie and turn with R ft (5,6, &7, &8).  
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 contra (with opp ftwk).  
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

STEP 4: HOP & TRAVEL

- 1-16 Repeat 1<sup>st</sup> step, but travel twd forward 2<sup>nd</sup>, rather than 4<sup>th</sup> intermediate.

For twasomes, the Break is danced at meas 17-32 of the 1<sup>st</sup> step and last step. Throughout the dance and introduction, M & W stand side-by-side, with W on M's R. Except when both are simultaneously dancing a complete turn, W's L hand is in M's R hand. When both are simultaneously dancing a turn, the hands are released when the turn starts and rejoined when it is completed. When, in the Break, one is dancing a complete turn while the other stands, the hold is loose, in order to allow for the turn.

THE BREAK (16 BARS):

While M stands for 6 meas (12 counts) in 1<sup>st</sup> position, W dances plie & turn with R ft (cts 1,2, &3, &4); plie & turn with L ft (5, 6, &7, &8); plie & turn with R ft (1, 2, &3, &4). Then, BOTH dance plie & turn with L ft (5, 6, &7, &8). While W stands for 6 bars (12 counts), M dances plie & turn with R ft, L ft, R ft, then BOTH dance plie & turn with L ft.

Presented by Kamrin MacKnight