

Sex Change Schottis

Sweden

This schottis variant is representative of the modern times. In fact it is from the 1980's dances in Sweden. It is not tied to a specific region, but rather to dance parties. It is a fun variation that is danced to the slower schottis melodies. I learned this variant from Tommy and Ewa Englund when they were teaching at Scandinavian Week at Buffalo Gap in 1987. The name is my own; as Tommy and Ewa said there was no special name for the dance, though in some parts of the USA it is referred to as the Schottis från Kallhäll.

Music: Any slow stately or old style schottis from Sweden.

Formation: Couples dance in a circle, progressing LOD/CCW around the dance space.

Dance Holds: Open position: use the open shoulder-shoulder blade hold.

Closed position: use the equilateral hold. In this hold both the man and the woman hold each other's upper back with their R hands and their L hands rest on the opposite shoulder, full arm contact helps for balance.

Steps:

Traveling step: Normal schottische steps as described below, with a smooth rolling down and up motion.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Counts | 1 | + | 2 | + | 3 | + | 4 | + |
| | step | step | step | lift | step | step | step | lift |
| inside person | L | R | L | | R | L | R | |
| outside person | R | L | R | | L | R | L | |
| svikt ⁱ | down | up | down | up | down | up | down | up |

Turning step: The inside person turns CW three times in one measure, ending on the opposite side from where he/she began. (The outside person only makes two complete CW turns.)

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|------|----|------|----|-------|-------|------|----|
| Counts | 1 | + | 2 | + | 3 | + | 4 | + |
| rhythmic cues | slow | | slow | | quick | quick | slow | |
| | step | | step | | step | step | step | |
| inside person | L | | R | | L | R | L | |
| outside person | R | | L | | R | L | R | |
| svikt | down | up | down | up | down | up | down | up |

Dance Sequence: Alternate one measure of schottische steps with one measure of turning, changing sides at the end of every two measures.

Begin outside feet. Men and women dance on the opposite feet at all times.

The man begins on the inside of the circle with his L foot and, after the turning, ends on the outside ready to begin again with the R foot.

The woman begins on the outside with her R foot and, after the turning, ends on the inside with the L foot free.

With each dance sequence the couple will alternate beginning from either the inside or outside position.

Character: Generally in Sweden the dance has a smooth rolling wave, which is described as the svikt of down up on each beat. It is not a hopping bouncy quality.

Notes:

1. I think of the dance as a gammal schottis as described by Gordon Tracie, with S S Q Q S turning sequence. It is essential for each dancer to pivot during and between each step.
2. Schottis music is transcribed as both 2/4 and 4/4. I have described the dance in 4/4.
3. This variation is also found in Norway. The character also follows the music, and is likely to have a light bouncy character.

ⁱ Svikt refers to the down up movements reflected in the style and character of the dance.