



# FRENCH TANGO-MAZURKA

## MAZURKA CLANDESTINA\*

(France - Belgium - Italy - Germany)  
Richard Powers

This is an evolving form of contemporary French/Flemish mazurka, currently spreading to Italy, Germany and elsewhere. As a living tradition of evolving folk mazurkas, these variations show some influences from other partnered dances, especially tango. It has been disseminated via the annual Gennetines folk dance festival.

\* The name of this dance has not been standardized. It is most often simply called *mazurka*, with the understanding that the term means this form of mazurka. It is also known as *tangurka* and *mazurka klandestina*.

**MUSIC:** French and Flemish folk mazurkas, played slower than earlier folk mazurkas.

**RHYTHM:** 3/4, often with the traditional Polish mazur cadence on the final cts 4-5.

**TEMPO:** 115 BPM, with a typical range from 112 to 125 BPM.

**FORMATION:** Cpls, in Ballroom pos.

**STEPS:** Ftwk described for M; W use opp ftwk.

**Flemish Mazurka Step:** Step small side L with wt; replace wt on R; bounce on R closing L to R without wt. Or opp ftwk. In tango mazurka, the bounce is almost imperceptible.

**Rearward Grapevine:** Cross L behind R with wt, step side R; cross L over in front of R with wt. Or opp.

**Forward Grapevine:** Step side L, cross R behind L, step side L.

**Rotary Waltz:** This is usually the standard folk CW turning waltz. But other kinds of waltz are occasionally seen, such as La Java simple stepping in place as you rotate. Or CCW Reverse Waltz.

**Pivoting Mazurka Step:** CW Pivot Step R; Pivot Step L; lift R. W begins L.

**Parallel Break:** M cross R fwd over as W cross L behind, in R/R Side Pos; replace wt back on opp ft.

**Tango Close:** M step side R; close L to R without wt. W opp ftwk.

**STYLING:** A wide variety of stylings are done, from smooth to bouncy; very close to partner or far apart, standing tall to slouched over. All steps tend to be small.

## PRACTICE PATTERN

This dance is usually danced on the spot, like salsa and tango, not traveling LOD like older mazurkas.

### A

- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 bar CCW waltz (W rock-steps back on cts 5-6).
- 2 1 Pivoting Mazurka Step beg opp ft rotating CW (pivot-pivot-lift), then 1 bar CW waltz.  
Note: This one is considered the "basic step" in today's Mazurka Clandestina.

- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 bar CCW waltz (W rock-steps back on cts 5-6).
- 2 1 Pivoting Mazurka Step beg opp ft rotating CW, then 1 bar Tango Close.

### B

- 4 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 Rearward Grapevine. Repeat opposite, with M crossing behind.
- 4 1 Flemish Mazurka Step, 1 Forward Grapevine, M catches W in a Parallel Break, then Tango Close.

### C

- 4 3 Flemish Mazurka Steps then 1 bar CW waltz. Repeat on opposite side then 1 bar CW waltz.

### D

- 4 2 Flemish Mazurka Steps then 1 full CW Rotary (Natural Turn) Waltz.
- 4 2 Flemish Mazurka Steps, 1 Rearward Grapevine, both crossing behind at first, then Tango Close.