

SCANDINAVIAN SCHOTTISCHE

Called Schottis in Sweden, Jenkka in Finland,
and Reinlender in Norway and Denmark

Traditional couple dance with many variations in steps and styling, as reflected in the mood of the music: from lively and bouncy, to slow and graceful. Differences arise between countries, and also between eras.

Basic formation:

Couples in a circle facing CCW LOD. Woman to right of man, on outside of circle.

Open position: Inside hands joined down at sides; outside hands hanging free, or Man's R arm behind partner, mid-back height, with Woman's L hand on his R shoulder.

Closed position: Woman's hands are just above Man's shoulder blades. Man's hands are just below Woman's shoulder blades.

Basic sequence:

in LOD, open position, starting on outside foot, Man's L, Woman's R step:

one-two-three hop (or lift)*

one-two-three hop

step-hop step-hop step-hop step-hop

**one-two-three-hop* is Norwegian; *step-close-step-hop* is Swedish. *Hop* versus *lift* throughout dance depends upon the music. Scandinavians use a down-up or down-lift movement called a *svikt*.

Variation 1: Closed Position

- a) - complete the basic sequence
- b) - continue basic sequence in open position, changing to a closed position for the step-hops (usually danced as CW pivot turns)
- c) - dance entire basic sequence in closed position

Variation 2: Away and Towards

- a) - complete the basic sequence
- b) - next repeat, drop hands and take the first "one-two-three hop" away from partner, Man making one clap on the hop
- c) - dance second "one-two-three hop" toward partner, and on the hop Woman raises both arms in delight, then takes closed position with partner.
- d) - continue with CW pivot-turns.

Variation 3: Woman Twirls

- a) - dance basic sequence in the traditional ballroom hold, pivoting together on the step-hops
- b) - next repeat, instead of pivot turns, Woman twirls once or twice, usually CW, under Man's raised R arm. He holds his palm face-down just above Woman's head. Her palm is face-up touching Man's palm. Man dances 4 step-hops in place while Woman twirls.

Variation 4: Grängesberg Schottis - Triplet steps

- a) - complete the basic sequence in closed position
- b) - next repeat, substitute for each step-hop, a quick triplet (1-2-3) of steps. Rotate CW as a couple while doing the triplets.

Variation 5: Man Kneels

- a) - complete the basic sequence in open position
- b) - next repeat, instead of step-hops or pivot turns, Man kneels on R knee holding his R hand up, with L hand on his upper L leg. Woman circles him CCW, with 4 step-hops. Make lots of eye-contact between partners.

Note that each variation is danced at least twice in succession to be courteous to partner, and not keep her guessing too frequently about what is next.

Sex-Change Schottische:

Alternating through this dance, Woman is on the outside of the circle, and then the inside. The partner who is on the inside is the "driver" of the pivots.

Couples in a circle all facing CCW LOD; Woman starts on the outside. Open position with Woman's inside arm resting on Man's shoulder blade, Man's inside arm resting on Woman's back just below her shoulder.

- a) - dance basic sequence in open position up to the step-hops
- b) - on first beat of step-hops, take closed position and complete one full CW turn by dancing step-hop, step-hop
- c) - complete 1 1/2 CW turns with three pivot steps, and open out to begin dance again with Man on Woman's right, Man's L hand on Woman's back.

Four-Handed Schottische:

Pairs of couples in a circle all facing CCW LOD; Women on outside; partners holding inside hands, pairs of couples holding outside hands. Hold hands until indicated. Together dance basic schottische sequence with two variations for the step-hops initiated by head couple.

- a) head couple releases partner's hand (while continuing to hold corner's hand) and turns outward and dances back behind the second couple, then takes partners' hands to reform the formation with a new head couple.
- b) head couple ducks and dances in place or slightly backwards as second couple raises their held hands and dances forward. New head couple twirls under the held arms to reform starting position.

Sick-Sack Schottis, från Härjedalen

Zig-Zag Schottische, Sweden

Couples in a circle facing CCW; Women on outside; partners holding inside hands.

Measure:

- 1-3 Starting on outside foot (Man's L, Woman's R) dance step-close-step-lift THREE times (the lift being slight, and more stately than a hop) moving forward in CCW LOD.
- 4 Releasing joined hands, Man cross over in front of Woman, while Woman crosses behind Man. Steps are step-close-step-lift, as both partners progress in CCW LOD.
- 5 Repeat measure 4 returning to original position, this time with Man crossing behind Woman, while Woman crosses in front of Man. Circle continues to progress in CCW LOD.
- 6-7 Rejoin inside hands, and move forward in LOD with TWO step-close-step-lift sequences.
- 8-9 Repeat measures 4-5 crossing over and back
- 10 Rejoin inside hands and move forward in LOD with ONE step-close-step-lift sequence. On the last step Man steps partly in front of partner, facing her while placing his R hand (still holding her L) behind her back and takes her R hand in his L, drawing it behind his back.
- 11-12 As presented at this festival, moving in LOD, couple takes four* CW pivot steps to make two complete turns. Man begins by stepping LOD (while facing RLOD) on his L foot; Woman by stepping forward LOD on her R. End in open position inner hands held.

Repeat dance from the beginning.

* Scandinavian dancers love turning. As schottische musical phrasing is almost always 8- or 16-bars, measures 11-12 could be written as measures 11-16 allowing for 12 pivot steps or six full pivot turns.