

SZPACYRPOLKA

Polish

PRONUNCIATION: SHPAH-tseer POHL-kah

TRANSLATION: Walking polka

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance from Morley Leyton who taught it at the 1976 San Diego State University Folk Dance Conference. He learned it from Janina Marcinkowa.

BACKGROUND: The dance comes from the Cieszynskie region located around the town of Cieszyn in the Silesian area of southwestern Poland. Cieszyn combines both Polish and Austrian peculiarities in the style of its buildings. Because of several major fires and subsequent reconstructions, the picturesque old town is sometimes called Little Vienna. The only relic of an ancient castle is a square tower, dating from the 12th century and 10th century romanesque chapel. The town is the site of the Olza Cieszyn sweets factory where the famous Prince Polo wafers are made.

MUSIC: Janosik Records, Village Dances of Poland, Vol. 4 (7" EP) LTN4

FORMATION: Cpls in a closed cir, W on M R, all facing ctr, hands held down and joined in "V" pos.

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: Relaxed and carefree.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

None.

I. CIRCLE; SKIP

1-8 Facing ctr with hands joined and held down and joined in "V" pos, swing hands twd ctr on first ct of each meas. Dancers sing words to the song as written above.

9-16 Cpls drop handhold with other cpls, keeping inside hands joined, facing LOD, and beginning with outside ft, skip to each ct of music. Dancers continue swinging hands as in meas 1-8.

II. WALK; PIVOT

- 1-2 M place R arm around ptrs waist, W place L hand on M R shldr, and walk 4 steps beginning with outside ft (outside hands hand freely down at sides).
- 3-4 Dance 4 1/2 pivot turns CW along LOD in ballroom pos (M L and W R hands are fully extended).
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-4.
- 9-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8.

III. AWAY AND TOGETHER; PIVOT

- 1 Releasing hands and beginning with outside ft, step-together-step directly away from ptr (M twd ctr and W twd outside of cir), progressing slightly. Dancers swing both hands in dir of movement and bend slightly fwd at waist.
- 2 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1, but in opp dir with opp ftwk and handwork.
- 3-4 Dance 4 1/2 pivot steps in shldr-shldr-blade hold.
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-4.
- 9-16 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-8.

IV. UNDER-ARM TURN

- 1 Placing hands on own hips, M with back to ctr, W facing ctr and ptr, both step in place, flat-footed, and turning slightly CCW with RLR.
- 2 Both step in place, turning slightly CW with RLR.
- 3 M giving ptr first two fingers of R hand to W, W cupping R hand around his two fingers without grasping, step R, L (as M move R hand in almost vertical CW circle making ptr complete one CW pivot in place).
- 4 Placing hands on own hips, stamp R, L, R.
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-4.
- 9-16 Repeat action of Fig IV, meas 1-8.

V. SKIP; WALK; PIVOT

- 1-8 Repeat Fig I, meas 9-16.
- 9-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-8.

VI. AWAY AND TOGETHER; PIVOT

- 1-16 Repeat action of Fig III.

VII. UNDER-ARM TURN

1-16 Repeat action of Fig IV.

VIII. FINALE

1-16 Skip around room and off the floor.

SZPACYRPOLKA
Poland

Words sung during the first melody.

Szpacyrpolka piękny taniec	The strolling polka, a beautiful dance
kto ją umie tańcować	if one knows how to dance it.

A gdo jest kapke trombiaty,	But if one is not too bright,
tyn musi w kącie stować.	one has to stand in the corner.

Copyright © 2018 by Dick Oakes