

Pariser

Pariser is a representative of a large family of dances called pariserpolka, wienerkryss, or - in the USA - Scandinavian polka. In some parts of Norway, particularly north of Trondheim, the dance is commonly done to most polka music. The figure dance groups do a 5-figure version called Pariserpolka. The version here is a simple, ordinary old-time dance version.

Recordings: Any Norwegian pariserpolka, wienerkryss, hamborgar, or slow polka.

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Couples in a circle, facing ptr, M back to center. Hold both hands at shldr ht (or just hold one hand - M L and W R).

Steps: Walking.

Meas Movement

- 1 Turn to face diagonally twd LOD, start M L and W R and walk 2 steps in LOD (cts 1-2).
- 2 Walk M L and W R in LOD (ct 1), turn to face ptr and place toe on ground next to supporting ft (ct 2). If you joined only one hand, change to the other one.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction, moving in RLOD.
- 5-6 Turn to face diagonally twd LOD and walk 4 steps fwd in LOD (M start L, W R). On the 4th ct, the M moves in front of W to prepare for turn.
- 7-8 Join in a closed pos – my favorite is R arm around ptr, L hand on ptrs R shldr. Turn twice CW with 4 walking steps, moving in LOD. Step L ft around ptr and R ft between ptrs ft.

In the transition to beginning of dance, M stabilizes W by continuing to hold on with his R until both are moving in the correct direction (LOD):

Variations

- (1) Clap both hands on ct 2 of meas 2 and 4.
- (2) Replace the 4 walking steps in meas 5-6 with two-steps.
- (3) Move hands M R and W L "over and under" (or "over and over") on ct 1 in meas 5-6.
- (4) Turn away from ptr, M to his L and W to her R, during meas 1-2. Turn back the opposite direction in meas 3-4. This is one of the most common ornaments in gammeldans, especially in parisers and reinlenders.