

Vindusvisker vals

When I arrived in Norway in the mid-1970s, there was still a dance every Saturday night in many communities. People usually went to the dance regularly from the time they were confirmed (age 14) until they got married, although those who really enjoyed dancing might continue throughout their lives.

This dance is a common way of dancing waltz. It does not have a special name, so I have called it "Windshield wiper waltz" because of the swinging back and forth. The back and forth pattern is reminiscent of the basic Danse vanlig (foxtrot) pattern.

Recordings: Any waltz.

Meter: 3/4

Formation: Couples in ballroom, shoulder-waist, or shoulder-shoulder blade pos. The dance progresses in LOD, but the dancers are not usually in a strict circle.

Steps: Waltz step. You can use either hesitation steps (step on ct 1, touch toe beside supporting ft ct 2), or waltz steps (step on ct 1, ct 2, and ct 3). Which you use depends on your age, how inspiring the music is, and how you feel that day. It is common to be "lazy" and use hesitation steps when movement through space is not necessary.

For example, it is common in a CW turn to do a full waltz step on the right-footed step and a hesitation step on the left-footed step. This is true for both M and W, so that one partner is doing the full waltz step while the other is doing a hesitation step.

The bounce pattern in a Norwegian waltz is usually down on cts 1 and 3. That is, down (ct 1), up (ct 2), down (ct 3), and up (ct 3 &).

Meas Movement

I Windshield wiper

- 1 M facing LOD, W in front of him. Man take one waltz step on fwd R, turning CW to face outside. W dance on waltz on L.
- 2 Man take one waltz step on L to L, continuing to turn CW to face RLOD. W take one waltz step on R.
- 3 M facing RLOD, W in front of him. Man take one waltz step bkwd on R, turning CCW to face outside. W dance on waltz on L.
- 4 Man take one waltz step on L to L, continuing to turn CCW to face LOD.

II Waltz turn CW

- 1 M facing LOD, W in front of him. Man take one waltz step fwd on R, turning half way round CW. W take one waltz step bkwd on L.
- 2 Man take one waltz step bkwd on L in RLOD, turning half way round CW. W take one waltz step fwd on R. In this way, the couple dances once around in two meas, progressing all the time in LOD.

III Waltz turn CCW

- 1 M facing LOD, W in front of him. Man take one waltz step fwd on L, turning half way round CCW. W take one waltz step bkwd on R.
- 2 Man take one waltz step bkwd on R in RLOD, turning half way round CCW. W take one waltz step fwd on L. In this way, the couple dances once around in two meas, progressing all the time in LOD.

Dance Sequence

The dance usually starts with the "windshield wiper". M may start with L ft, doing 1 meas straight fwd before he starts with the wiper pattern. He then dances the wiper pattern as long as he wants. This pattern forms the basis of the dance, while the other two parts are embellishments added at the M's discretion.

Every 3-4 patterns he may put in a single CW or CCW turn. Add a CW turn after meas 4 and before meas 1. Add a CCW turn after meas 2 and before meas 3.

Once in a while, he may do two CW or CCW turns.

*Presented by Alix Cordray
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