

Klappdans

This type of "clapping" dance is found throughout northern Europe in various forms. In Norway it is also known as Fingerpolka or Ungersvein og Jomfruva.

Source: Klara Semb, Norske Folkedansar - Turdansar, Oslo 1991.

Music: 2/4 polka. Special melody, printed in Norske Folkedansar. Aage Grundstad, Norske tur- og folkedanser 1, EMI 7243 852060 2 3 CD or cassette. Fanteladdane on camp CD.

Formation: Couples in a circle facing LOD. W is on M's R.

Steps: Polka (galopp) step fwd L (ct 1), step R beside L (ct &), step fwd L (ct 2). This is step-close-step with a down-up-down feeling. (In the 1991 edition of the book, it says that hamborgar steps can be used instead of galopp steps.)

Meas Pattern

- 1-8 Face-to-face and back-to-back. Dance 8 polka steps, starting M L and W R. Face each other on the 1st, dancing sideways. On the 2nd, dance forward in LOD (or a little back-to-back).
- 9 Dance one polka step, M L and W R. M dances almost in place as he brings W across in front of him. Take Norwegian ballroom pos (M L hand grasps outer edge of W R).
- 10-16 Dance 7 polka steps turning CW. Turn 3 1/4 turns to end facing ptr, M back to ctr.
- 17 M crosses arms on chest and bows. W holds skirt, places L toe on floor slightly behind R, and curtsies. Bow & curtsy (ct 1), straighten up (ct 2).
- 18 Clap own hands 3 times (cts 1,&,2).
- 19-20 Repeat meas. 17-18.
- 21-22 Clap R hands with ptr (ct 1). Clap own hands (ct 2). Clap L hands with ptr (ct 1). Clap own hands (ct 2).
- 23 Take two steps, L (ct 1) and R (ct 2), and turn once around to own L. Also clap R hands with ptr (ct 1) as you start the turn.
- 24 Stamp three times in place L (ct 1), R (ct &), L (ct 2). End with wt on both ft.
- 25-28 Repeat mes 17-20.
- 29-30 Shake R forefinger at ptr (cts 1 & 2). Shake L forefinger at ptr (cts 1 & 2).
- 31 Take two steps, L (ct 1) and R (ct 2), and turn once around to L. Also clap own hands(ct 1) as you start the turn.
- 32 Stamp three times in place L (ct 1), R (ct &), L (ct 2). End with wt on both ft.

Note: In earlier times, you always kept your free hand on your hip, palm against side, thumb forward and fingers back. This has become much less strict in recent years.

Klappdans simplifications for children

Many polka dances lend themselves to simplification (and to “complication”) and here is a “graded” series for klappdans.

Simplest – I (usually called Fingerpolka)

Done in a circle with as many as will (no partners). Can be done with very young children.

Meas Pattern

- 1-16 Slide steps to L (take second half to R if they are able).
- 17-18 Stamps: L-R (cts 1-2), L-R-L (cts 1-&-2).
- 19-20 Claps: Clap-clap (cts 1-2), clap-clap-clap (ctrs 1-&-2).
- 21-22 Shake R forefinger at ctr (cts 1 & 2). Shake L forefinger at ctr (cts 1 & 2).
- 23-24 Walk 4 steps around to L (clap on first).
- 25-32 Repeat meas 17-24.

Simple – II.

Done in a circle with as many as will (no partners). Can be done with young children.

Meas Pattern

- 1-8 Slide steps to L.
- 9-16 Slide steps to R.
- 17 Bow and curtsy, down (ct 1), up (ct 2).
- 18 Clap own hands (ctrs 1-&-2).
- 19-20 Repeat meas 17-18.
- 21-22 Shake R forefinger at ctr (cts 1 & 2). Shake L forefinger at ctr (cts 1 & 2).
- 23-24 Walk 4 steps around to L (clap on first).
- 25-32 Repeat meas 17-24.

Slightly simplified - III.

Couples in a circle facing LOD. W is on M's R.

Meas Pattern

- 1-8 8 polka steps in LOD. You can do these 8 meas with or without “face-to-face and back-to-back” swinging. If you're going to swing, you need to start with M L and W R. If not, the feet aren't very important. It's easier to swing than not.
- 9-16 Join two hands with ptr and do 16 slides to the side in LOD. (Alternatively, you could change hands and to the same as meas 1-8 in RLOD.) I prefer the slides since they can coexist with the adult dance, since they move in the same direction.
- 17-32 As in regular klappdans (clapping pattern).

Regular dance - IV.

When the children are able to learn the polka turn, meas 9-16 of the previous simplified version can be replaced by the turn. You then have the complete, regular klappdans.