

Schottische

The schottische (schottis) is a partnered country dance, Bohemian in origin, well known in Europe, South America, and Scandinavia. It can be danced big and bouncy, as in the US, or smoother and more restrained in its movements, as in Europe.

Music:

Usually four repeating four-measure structures in 4/4 time, AABB, with a strong accent on the first and third beats and a fast walking tempo.

Formation:

Any number of couples in a circle facing counterclockwise

Dance:

4 measures of 4 beats

Summary:

Measure/steps

1. out-together-out-hop
2. in-together-in-hop
- 3&4. four turns: out-2, in-2, out-2, in-2

The hop is often not done but replaced by having the previous step taking two beats in a smooth walking motion.

Hold

Walking: Open shoulder-waist hold, Gent on L of partner, hip-to-hip, with gent's R arm around the lady's midback and lady's L arm around gent's upper back, outside hands on hips or hanging loosely at sides.

Turning: Closed position during turn with arms on upper back, gent's arms below lady's arms.

Detail:

Call the gent's L foot and lady's R foot "outside", and the other foot the "inside".

1. Starting in the open dance position, dance forward with
 - (1) Step forward on outside foot
 - (2) Close the inside foot to the outside, taking weight on inside foot
 - (3) Step again on outside foot
 - (4) Hop, swinging inside foot forward
2. Repeat all to the other side with
 - (1) Step forward on inside foot
 - (2) Close the outside foot to inside, taking weight on outside foot
 - (3) Step again on inside foot
 - (4) Hop, swinging outside foot forward
3. Changing to closed dance position, dance forward with
 - (1) Step forward on outside foot, turning
 - (2) Hop on outside foot turning half way around
 - (3) Step forward on inside foot, turning
 - (4) Hop on inside foot turning half way around
4. (same as 3.)

Turn is often done smoothly without the hop. During the turn, each person's R foot should be between the partner's feet, in the natural way.

There are a number of variations that can be done as part of the walking steps, including separating to the side as you both step and coming back together in time for the turn, or turning toward the outside and slapping the sides of your shoes with your hands (typically only the gent).

Snoa

Snoa is a word meaning "to turn or rotate," and is used throughout a good part of northern Sweden to identify dances involving a simple pivot-spin step in duple-meter, often to gånglåt (walking-tune) music. The formation and hold are the same as for the schottische.

Summary:

Walk (feet: outside, inside) for as long as you want, then pivot turn as long as you want.

Detail:

Open walking steps forward:

In open shoulder-waist hold, free hands hanging loosely at sides, begin on outside foot, couple moves forward with firm walking steps, one step to each count of the music.

Closed pivot-spin turn:

Whenever desired, preferably on the 1st count of the 1st measure of a phrase but could be on any odd count, gent closes the hold as they begin to pivot turn (outside foot, inside foot, repeat) making a full rotation on each 2 counts.

Couple may return to open walking steps at any time by merely breaking out into open position again. Try to turn complete turns to avoid spiraling into the middle of the dance hall, aiming for the outside wall.

Topsy-turvy

Gender roles can easily be swapped by turning or pivoting in these dances an odd number of times (or, say, 3 schottische turns with 2 pivots to finish). Strive to begin with the music on your outside foot on the first beat of the measure coming out of the turn.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schottische>
<http://www.freewheelers.org/1DancingFool/schott.htm>
<http://dansglad.se/en/texter/schottise.htm>
<http://www.folkdancing.com/Pages/skandia/01gang.htm>