

Spanish Waltz Mixer

(a.k.a. Spanish Waltz, Spanish Dance)

A 19th Century Waltz Mixer for Couples

Music: Any square (4x8) waltz. Many groups do it quite fast, but I prefer it at the slower end of the rotary waltz range to keep the balances and turns comfortable.

Formation: Sets of two couples facing each other, one couple facing along LOD and another facing against LOD. Couples in open position, holding inside hands.

Thirty-two bars (sixteen waltzes):

Introduction) Honor Partners

1) On first foot (his left, her right), balance forward and backward

2) Taking inside hands with opposite (his right, her left), outside (arch) turn to change partners, falling back to place 1/4 around the set (1/4 to his left, 1/4 to her right)

3 - 8) Repeat 1 & 2 four times to return to place with original partner

9 - 10) All right-hand star CW a full rotation (360°), with an additional solo rotation CW on the fourth bar to take left hands for left-hand star

11 - 12) All left-hand star CCW a full rotation (360°), returning to place

13 - 16) Taking crossed hands in front with partner, wheel counterclockwise (leads left shoulders together) a full rotation, then progress forward to meet a new couple (couples progress in the direction they were originally facing, i.e., half the couples progress along LOD, while the other half progress against LOD)

Spanish Waltz Variations

most learned from Joan Walton

Turn Variations

- One hand: arch turn with inside hands
- Two hands: dishrag turn with two hands
- Two hands: inside turn to cradle position
- Two hands (left over right): crossed hands to shadow position

Star Variations

- Transition variation: easy (CW) solo turn between the stars
- Transition variation: fancier (CCW) solo turn between the stars
- Footwork variation: facing center, hop-side-close x 3, step-stamp
- Footwork variation: facing center, click-side-close x 3, step-stamp
- Footwork variation: facing center, cross-heel click-side x 3, step-stamp

- The Versailles historical dance club in Minsk, Belarus, replaces the star entirely, dancing instead: take hands four, balance in and out, then give Follow at the Lead's left an inside turn, as she slides across in front of him to his right side. Repeat a total of four times. Then they progress with rotary waltz. It becomes an entirely different dance (with 40 bars, rather than 32), but I quite like it.

Travel Variations

- Promenade in crossed-hand position
- Promenade in waltz position (or any other position)
- Rotary waltz
- Redowa, mazurka, polka redowa, etc

Musical Variations

- Waltz
- Polka
- Hungroise
- Mazurka