

Riff Waltz Mixer

An easy mixer riffing on the Oslo Waltz Mixer, adapted by Richard Powers

Music: Any rotary waltz tune with continual eight-bar phrases.

Part I

All couples take hands in one circle, facing in, Follow to the right of the Lead.

2 bars: All waltz balancé forward and back (forward-close-close, back-close-close), starting on their first feet (his left, her right) swinging the hands forward and back. A sociable tradition is for the Lead to look left and the Follow to look right going forward, opposite going back.

2 bars: Follows pass by the Lead at their right with a Follow's rotary waltz step, falling back into the next opening. She takes two hands with the Lead as she's passing by, then releases right-in-left hands, giving her right hand to the new Lead at her right when in her new place.

4 bars: Repeat first four bars, keeping both hands with the last partner that passed by and turning to face each other, Lead facing along LOD, Follow facing against LOD.

Part II

All couples in a circle, two hands with partner, Lead along LOD, Follow against LOD.

2 bars: Leads step side-close-side to the center in 1-3-1 timing. Follows pivot under his arm clockwise (an outside turn), 1-3-1.

2 bars: Leads step side-close-side to outside wall in 1-3-1 timing. Follows pivot under his arm counterclockwise (an inside turn), 1-3-1. On the second bar, the couple does the second half of a rotary waltz (Follow backing, Lead stepping forward) to get the Lead facing out in preparation for a rotary waltz.

4 bars: Rotary waltz LOD, releasing Follow to the right at the end, taking hands in circle to repeat Part I.

Origins

The origins of the Riff Waltz Mixer, including three alternative versions.

1) The Oslo Waltz Mixer, described here:

http://www.libraryofdance.org/dances/Oslo_Waltz_Mixer.pdf

2) Fabio Molica's "Испанский вальс" ("Spanish Waltz"):

Pass four ladies by in front as in the Oslo Waltz, then side-close-side-close-side-close-side to the center in waltz position, in 1-3-1-3-1-3-1 timing, then side-close-side-close-side-close-side to the outside wall, then 8 waltzes. 16 bars of passing, 8 bars of in and out, 8 bars of waltzing.

3) Richard Powers' original riff on that, the "Russian Waltz Mixer":

Pass two ladies by, then Double Boston (side-close-side, 1-3-1) in in waltz position, in then out, then four waltzes. 8 bars of passing, 4 bars of Double Boston in and out, 4 bars of waltzing.