Polka Cotillon

Quadrille formation, polka steps.

Salute partners, salute corners

	Bars
End couples (1 st & 2 nd couples) cross over with forward polka step. (1 st couple holding inside hands, 2 nd couple pass on the outside). Partners turn under raised arms into places on the opposite side and finish with	8
quick bow and curtsey.	
Side ladies cross with forward polka step, taking right arms linked and swing round one another twice and continue on to opposite places.	8
Side men cross but link left arms for the swing and continue on to opposite places.	8
End couples take ballroom hold and circular polka back to places.	8
Side couples take ballroom hold and circular polka back to places.	8
End couples turn right, side couples turn left to face one another. In these diagonals, couples promenade round in these 2 separate groups with forward polka steps back to places.	8
All ladies right hand star in centre using forward polka step while men polka anticlockwise round outside them.	4
All turn, (left hand star for ladies, clockwise direction for men) polka back to meet partners.	4
Take both hands and turn round one another with forward polka steps, moving back to places at the same time, and repeat this turn in places.	8
	64
Repeat with side couples leading, 3 rd couple will go through centre, 4th on outside etc.	64
At the end of this repeat, partners take ballroom hold, polka round the set, 1 st couple leads out of the set and all polka the hall.	Music as required

This is the dance as described in the dance book from The Ithaca School of Arts (1884) Queensland. A very similar version is in an English Ballroom Guide by Seaton (1860).

It could be made longer by repeating both End and Sides once more with 2nd couples taking the inside track in the cross-over, then the 4th couple, but the rest of the dance should remain unchanged because the sequence fits the relative positions of the ladies and men at the time.

(Description provided by Gwen Burke)