

Swing Waltz

Position

Open extended position, i.e. partners side by side facing along L.O.D., man holding lady's left hand in his right.

Dance

	Bars
Man starting on left foot, lady on right, take 3 steps forward and raise the inside foot forward.	2
Both step back on this raised foot, back on outside foot turning to face partner, then step sideways (against L.O.D.) and bring feet together.	2
Both solo waltz outwards finishing facing partner and holding both hands.	2
They move along L.O.D. with 2 slow steps sideways, closing the other foot up each time.	2
Repeat moving against L.O.D. and finishing by turning to face L.O.D. and opening out into the open extended position.	2
Both step to side outwards from partner and close inside foot up.	1
Both swivel slightly on the outside foot and step on inside foot so as to turn past one another. The man steps diagonally forward on right foot turning to the right as he turns lady under his raised right arm. The lady moves over behind him, turning to the left and they both finish in opposite places facing against L.O.D., still holding inside hands.	1
Repeat the step and close away from partner followed by the turn past one another, lady passing in front, finishing back in places facing along L.O.D.	2
Repeat the step and close sideways away from partner.	1
Swivelling slightly on outside foot, both step diagonally towards partner with inside foot and close other foot up, finishing facing partners and holding both hands.	1
Step sideways along L.O.D. (man on left foot, lady on right) and kick the other leg across in direction of L.O.D. Step with other foot against L.O.D. repeating kick across in same direction (against L.O.D.).	2
Step forward on outside foot along L.O.D. and both turn outward.	1
Man releases lady's right hand. Both step forward with inside foot, moving into a back-to-back position, clasped hands held out in direction of L.O.D. above shoulder level. Close other foot up.	
Both step sideways along L.O.D. (man on right foot, lady on left) and draw other foot up, swaying towards it.	1
Step sideways against L.O.D. and draw other foot up, swaying towards L.O.D.	1
Both face L.O.D. and step forward on inside foot turning in towards partner. Step to side along L.O.D. and close other foot up, and take partner's hands.	1
Both step to one side along L.O.D. and kick inside leg through in direction of L.O.D. Repeat, reversing direction against L.O.D.	2
Stepping forward on outside foot, take 3 steps forward and raise inside foot forward.	2
Stepping back on inside foot, take 3 steps back and close outside foot up taking ballroom hold.	2

Waltz 2 circles. 4

Reverse Viennese Waltz is used by some dancers for these 4 bars of circular waltzing; in that case, it will be necessary for the partners when stepping around and turning during the last 2 bars to finish with the man facing diagonally to the centre and the lady with her back diagonally to the centre.

The man then starts the Viennese Waltz by stepping forward diagonally to the centre with the left foot, the lady backwards with the right foot, turning to the left. Continuing to turn, the man steps sideways on the right foot, and as he turns so as to back L.O.D., he crosses the left foot in front of the right. 1

Continuing to turn, he steps diagonally back toward the centre with the right foot, closes the left up to the right foot and pivots on his heels to face L.O.D. The lady does this latter part of the turn from the step backwards with the right foot first, then the steps from the diagonal step forward to the centre, etc. 1

Notes

The Swing Waltz is one of 20 or so sequence dances created in Australia. Originating in Sydney, it was first brought to Melbourne in 1947 by dancing teacher Albert Boal who had seen it danced in Brisbane. He added the Viennese Waltz variation to it, and it has become very popular in Victoria among the New Vogue Old Time dancers. It is also done in some country districts and I first saw it done at a Nariel Folk Festival in 1976 by some visitors from Bamawn (near Echuca). The version here with the alternative waltz section as a reverse Viennese Waltz is the version issued by the Combined Societies Old Time Standardisation Committee in 1962. I have also given the ordinary circular waltz ending which I have seen danced in some places, and which is closer to the original.

Music

Waltz music in 32-bar sequences at a tempo of 50 to 54 bars per minute. Suitable waltzes include Strauss's Emperor Waltz, 'Morning Has Broken', 'I'll Be with you in Apple Blossom Time', 'Champagne Spirits', 'This is My Song' and 'Kiss of Spring'.

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