

THE OLD WALTZ QUADRILLE

Record: LS 5-140

A generation ago (or more) this famous old dance was probably the favorite throughout the nation, and now it is almost forgotten. In many parts of the country it was the last number on every dance program the good-night waltz. Each couple danced it through four times, or sixteen times in all. The modern tendency is to send both head couples down center at the same time and then do the same with the side couples, and thus cut it down to a total of eight repetitions. If you know how to waltz well it is a beautiful and satisfying dance with its constant changing of partners. Grandmother knew her stuff! She picked her favorites well. If you don't know how to waltz, isn't it about time that you learned?

Head couples down center and there they divide

The ladies go right, and the gents go left side

The two head couples waltz down center past each other.

(The old rule would be to pass to the left side. But since this is a modern variation, and since the RF rotation is easier to waltz around a set in promenade direction, I recommend passing to the R in this dance, in a sort of flattened promenade, each couple passing just inside of the side couples but still around the square) They waltz full around to the opposite couple's pos (now left deserted), and there separate from each other, the lady waltzing around to the right. As the ladies pass the opp man, behind the side couples, they take the inside track and the men stay to the outside.

Honor your partners and don't be afraid

To swing on the corners with a waltz promenade

Then they take dance pos with the corner and go right into a waltz promenade around the square. The first meas is a mild swing, in that the man goes back on his L foot and

pivots on it while he swings his R foot around to face along the promenade LOD and then closed his L to his R. Then he waltzes fwd on his R which puts him in the correct pos for the easiest of the RF waltzes as he waltzes around the set.

They have 12 meas to dance once and a half around the square and back to their orig home pos. This would seem hurried to the old timers, who not only had the 4 meas for the waltz-swing, but had 16 full meas besides for the waltz around the square. This is too much for the modern dancer, and you can see that it must also have been too much for grandmother who, to judge from the old chorus verses next quoted, used to wander quite away and out of the square with all this time on her hands.

The following old-time choruses will take you through the four repetitions of the dance for the head couples.

Once she'll be your girl, once she'll be mine
Hurry up there young fellow, you're getting behind
You're waltzing and talking and sure to forget
To waltz the young lady back into the set
Your heart is fast beating, your mind's in a whirl
You're contented to dance all night with this girl
You're happy, she's happy, too happy to sing
But remember you're dancing and stay in the ring

If you care to play the record through a second time for the side couples, the following old-time verses will take care of them:

The music plays softly, the lights are so low
Don't hurry, there's plenty of time yet to go
By hustling and bustling ou're sure to regret

That you crowded some couple right out of the set
You're waltzing, she's waltzing, so graceful and gay
Her hand on your shoulder. She's in heaven today
Her hand seems to tremble, her eyes are alight
This is the last waltz, so whisper "good-night."

Callers are sometimes starved and lonesome creatures, standing off at one side with their cold and skinny microphone while the rest of you dance. If a sentimental caller, under the spell of the music, substitutes for the words "so whisper 'good-night'," the more romantic and soulful words "I love you! Good-night," you will excuse him and understand.....