

Dodworth's BOLERO SCHOTTISCHE

New York, 1850

Reconstructed by Richard Powers



Allen Dodworth was a prominent American dancing master and composer. He invented a schottische in slow 3/4 time in 1850, which was the very first year that the schottische became popular, although Dodworth later claimed to have taught the schottische in 1849. Either way, this was a striking example of creative thinking, to invent such a unique dance just as the schottische was introduced.

This 3/4 rhythm was both a bolero and polonaise, differentiated by either a Spanish or Polish character. He called this, alternately, Bolero, the Dodworth Schottische, and Dodworth's New Schottische. We will refer to it as Dodworth's Bolero Schottische.

Steps for the gent. Lady dances opposite.

Traveling forward:

1. Glide L foot forward.
2. Coupé cutting R foot under the L, displacing the L forward low into the air with a heel click.
3. Lightly jeté L foot forward.
4. Hop on L.
5. Lightly jeté R foot forward.
6. Hop on R.

Turning, in closed waltz position:

1. Glide L foot diagonally forward/sideways toward LOD.
2. Coupé cutting R foot under the L, displacing the L forward, while starting to rotate CW.
3. The gent jetés L foot across in front of the lady with a pivot step, as in the first step of a rotary waltz, as the lady steps forward R, toward LOD, slightly between the gent's feet.
4. Hop on L while rotating 180° CW.
5. Lightly jeté R foot forward as the lady jetés L foot across in front of the gent, with a pivot step.
6. Hop on R while rotating 180° CW.

Think of it as a slow polka step (1-2-3-4) plus a schottische hopped pivot (5-6).

Dodworth called for many variations, keeping this step timing—the same variety as found in the polka.

Variations suggested by Dodworth

Promenade forward in half-open waltz position, side-by-side.

Promenade forward taking inside hands, gent's R hand holding lady's L hand, or with crossed hands.

Clockwise turning, as described on page 1.

Reverse turn. To accomplish a reverse pivot, "square" the frame, shifting your partner toward your left, so that your left foot steps forward between your partner's feet when they are backing in front of you.

Simple Pursuit. In waltz position, the lady backs up as the gent faces LOD, without rotation.

Balancé. In waltz position, gent facing out, sideways L polka step LOD, sideways R step-hop against LOD.

Other possible variations

Diagonal Pursuit. In waltz position, zig forward LOD diagonally to the center with the polka step; zag diagonally out with the step-hop. The gent always faces LOD without rotation.

Pas d'Allemande / Pastourelle. The lady does a CW underarm turn under the gent's raised left arm. The lady faces forward LOD for the first step-hop R, then backs L on the second step-hop.

Vis-à-vis, dos-à-dos: Gent's R hand holding lady's L hand, face partner while taking the first two steps, then swing held hands forward LOD on the third step, and hop, bringing one almost back-to-back with partner. Swing the hands back on the fourth step, and hop.

Three-Slide Galop. Dodworth's suggested variations were all established polka variations at the time, applied to his new dance. Therefore, since the galop was a polka variation at the time, use the galop as a variation. Take three jeté-coupé side steps toward LOD, turning halfway on the third one, then repeat LOD on the opposite foot.

The Three-Slide Galop can also be done in a zig-zag pattern diagonally toward LOD.

A Practice Sequence

Mid-19th century dance academies often arranged polka variations into a practice sequence, and Dodworth applied polka variations to his Bolero Schottische, so this practice sequence tradition can be applied here.

- 4 Promenade in half-open waltz position, side-by-side.
- 4 Clockwise turning.
- 4 Balancé.
- 4 Reverse turn.
- 4 Galop
- 4 Diagonal Pursuit.
- 4 Vis-à-vis, dos-à-dos.
- 4 Pas d'Allemande
- 4 Clockwise turning.

Here is the original description.

Gentleman takes partner as in waltzing. There are six motions, or times, in each bar, making one revolution as in the waltz.

LADY'S STEP.

- 1 . . . Slide right foot forward.
- 2 . . . Spring on left foot striking the heels together.
- 3 . . . Spring on right foot.
- 4 . . . Hop on right foot.
- 5 . . . Spring from right to left foot.
- 6 . . . Hop on left foot.

GENTLEMENS STEP.

- 1 . . . Slide left foot forward.
- 2 . . . Spring on right foot striking heels together.
- 3 . . . Spring on left foot.
- 4 . . . Hop on left foot.
- 5 . . . Spring on right foot.
- 6 . . . Hop on right foot.

There is the same variety of figures as in the polka, viz. promenade, waltz, pursuit reverse and balance; in which the same step is constantly used, varying only, to suit the direction.