

JAZZ WALTZ MIXER

By Persis Forster, 1963

Reconstructed by Richard Powers,
with helpful assistance from Persis Forster in 2019

Music recommended by Persis Forster:
Gravy Waltz, either the recording by Steve Allen (1963)
or by Kai Winding (1963).



Persis Forster dancing the Jazz Waltz Mixer in 1963

Formation: Couples in a large circle with even spacing, taking closed waltz position, both facing forward LOD.
Steps described are for M. W dances opposite footwork.

Bars

Figure I

- 4 Waltz balance step forward L, with a "light stomp" on count 1, waltz step back R, waltz step forward L, waltz step back R.
- 4 4 waltz steps promenading forward LOD, ending facing partner with M facing out, taking open two hands, as in the above photo.

Figure II

- 2 Swing triple step L-R-L (1&2), swing triple step R-L-R (3&4), rock step back L, replace R (5-6).
- 2 Repeat this "Triple Lindy to Waltz Time."
- 2 Outside Underarm Turn (possibly tucked) sending the W forward LOD one place, as M stay in place.
- 2 Taking open two hands, Triple Lindy to Waltz Time with new partner, then take closed waltz position.

Figure III

- 4 In closed waltz position, both facing forward LOD:
 - 1) Step L forward LOD (W steps forward R).
 - 2) Stamp R foot almost closed to L without weight.
 - 3) Hold.
 - 4) Step R forward LOD.
 - 5) Cross (lock) L tightly behind R, with weight.
 - 6) Step R forward LOD.
 - 1) Face partner releasing rear arms and step L side toward LOD.
 - 2) Stamp R foot almost closed to L without weight, falling back to face against LOD.
 - 3) Hold.
 - 4) Step Back R, crossed behind L, with weight.
 - 5) Step side L along LOD.
 - 6) Close R to L with weight, re-taking Promenade Position, both facing forward LOD.
- 4 Repeat.

Figure IV

- 8 Repeat Figure II, with W progressing one more place forward LOD.

Additional Figure V

The original description said, "Miss Forster gave additional more difficult figures." I asked Persis about this, commenting that her Figure III resembled the Camel Walk in the Stroll, which was popular at that time. Persis told me, "I probably did this as you would do the Stroll." It works especially well to jazz waltz music because the Camel Walk has 3-step phrases. So, with her permission, here is the Stroll's Camel Walk as Figure V.

- 2 1) Keeping both hands, facing partner, step side L along LOD.
 2) Cross R tightly behind L.
 3) Turn to face LOD, releasing hand in front, and step forward L.
 4) Swinging rear held hands forward, step diagonally forward/side R along LOD.
 5) With held hands swung forward, cross (lock) L tightly behind R, almost back-to-back with partner.
 6) Swinging held hands back, step forward R.
- 6 Take both hands to commence this pattern, three more times.

For a Camel Walk styling, the L knee buckles (pops) forward as the R foot crosses behind on count 2, and the R knee buckles forward as the L foot crosses behind on count 5.*

Figure VI

- 8 Repeat Figure II, with W progressing one more place forward LOD.

* Note: For a styling prototype, a video of the Camel Walk in the Stroll can be seen here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrGLNtZ0rEg&t=0m17s>

Jazz Waltz Mixer - Easy Party Version

Richard Powers, based on Persis Forster's Jazz Waltz Mixer, 1963

My rule of thumb is that if you're going to teach a dance at a party, it should take less than five minutes to teach. In this case, only do Figures 1 and 2, repeating those two figures. This becomes an easy mixer that keeps the essence of the Jazz Waltz Mixer.

The original description, from the February 1964 issue of Ballroom Dance Magazine, is on the next page.

JAZZ WALTZ MIXER

BY PERSIS FORSTER
OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS

Gentleman's part is described. Lady does counterpart unless otherwise indicated. Couples in large circle in Closed Position facing LOD.

Steps	Figure I	Cts.	Meas.
Fwd left waltz		1,2,3	1
Bwd right waltz		1,2,3	1
Fwd left waltz		1,2,3	1
Bwd right waltz		1,2,3	1
Fwd left waltz		1,2,3	1
Fwd right waltz		1,2,3	1
Fwd left waltz		1,2,3	1
Fwd right waltz, making $\frac{1}{4}$ turn right to face out		1,2,3	1
			<hr/> 8

Note: give a light stomp on 1st count of each waltz step to suit character of dance.



Nancy Stevens demonstrates Quickstep with Albert Balla of Waco, Texas. Mrs. Stevens and husband Lance (far R) head Stevens of Hollywood studio, Houston.



Teen-age material was given by Tito & Marjorie Montilla of Odessa, Texas.

Figure II			
Triple Lindy Basic to Waltz			
Time			
Triple left	1&2		
Triple right	3&4		
LF bwd (weight on ball of foot)	5		
RF step in place	6	2	
Repeat triple Lindy basic	1-6	2	
Repeat triple Lindy basic as release R hand hold, L hand			
			(over)



Persis Forster of Arlington, Texas, dances Jazz Waltz with assistant.

JAZZ WALTZ (Cont'd)

retaining lady's R to lead her in tuck-in right turn. Release her R hand so she can move to next partner. (This is the one to the left of her original partner.)	1-6	2
Repeat triple Lindy basic, still in place as gentleman with his R hand guides his new partner to him & to Closed Pos. Lady is also doing a 4th Lindy basic	1-6	<hr/> 2 8

Figure III			
LF fwd, facing LOD and bringing partner to Outside Right Pos			1
Stomp RF without weight			2
Hold			3
RF fwd			1
Cross LF back of RF			2
RF fwd			3
LF swd (along LOD)			1
Stomp RF without weight as both face opposite LOD. (Gentleman releases R hand hold.)			2
Hold			3
Cross RF back of LF			1
LF swd			2
Close RF to LF (Bring partner to Closed Pos. on above 3 counts.)			3
Repeat the above 4 meas. to face LOD			<hr/> 4 8

Figure IV
Repeat Figure II 8
Repeat all as many times as desired. Suggested records: *Gravy Waltz*, Steve Allen Album 3515 or *Soul Surfn'*, Kai Winding V-8551.

The above gives a new angle by using $\frac{3}{4}$ time for Lindy. Miss Forster gave additional more difficult figures which made it a demonstration number.

Note: Figure III says, "bringing partner to Outside Right Pos," but Persis Forster clarified to me that it is closed waltz position, with both dancers facing forward LOD and both stepping forward.