

# THE PEABODY

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

The original Peabody was simply a fast One-Step with a new name. After World War I the dance was still popular but the name One-Step was sounding old. In the New York / New Jersey area the name Peabody became the popular new name. It was often danced to a fast jazzy version of Tiger Rag.

The Peabody then evolved into a second version which preferred polka-skips (as taught by the Castles and others), now called Lock Steps, which increased the chances of stepping on your partner unless you walked in side (Yale) position. Someone started a story about Police Lieutenant William Frank Peabody being too fat to hold his partner in front of himself and that story stuck permanently. The Savoy Ballroom had a version of this they called The Walk but was danced in a much closer ballroom hug, not in Yale Position, and with considerable body sway. The British Quickstep and the Texas Two-Step are also similar to the Peabody.

**Basic:** Walking in Yale (side) Position with woman backing, in a slow-slow-quick-quick (SSQQ) timing. Optional: do a Lock Step on the quick steps, like Texas Two-Step, in a straight line. Dance very smoothly.

The Peabody usually travels relentlessly in line-of-direction.

**Promenade:** The same but with the woman walking forward instead of backing.

**Outside Underarm Turns:** The woman pivots CW under her raised R arm during the two slow steps. Some argue that Underarm Turns are only for the Peabody and don't belong in Foxtrot. Others disagree.

**Yale Walk with Outside Underarm Turn.** Just that, from side position. He leads her early with a side-close on the QQ (not a lock step) before the underarm turn.

**Pivots:** He backs her in Yale position w/ SSQQ timing. Face partner on one of the QQs with side-close steps. Then he cuts in front of her, facing her squarely (leading with his back) and both pivot two slow steps. Exit with QQ run-run steps returning to Yale Position.

**Grapevine Walk:** He walks fwd SSQQ while he leads her alternately backing and fwd in same timing. i.e. she grapevines and he doesn't. She does a side-close on the quick steps instead of lock steps.