

Polka Country Dance

Reconstruction by Richard Powers

From BALL-ROOM GUIDE; A MANUAL OF DANCING by H. D. Willock, Glasgow, circa 1864

POLKA COUNTRY DANCE.						
1.	The top couple change places as in the Guaracha. First and second couples set at the sides, and pass to each other's places, set to partners and pass. Repeat the above movements,	-	-	-	-	16
2.	First couple lead down the middle and up again,	-	-	-	-	8
3.	Pousette,	-	-	-	-	8

This description refers to the Guaracha (Spanish Dance), so we use that reconstruction and pousette to help interpret this dance. The title implies that polka steps are used throughout.

Formation: Longways contradance, Duple Improper with active couples crossed over. Traditionally only the top couple crosses over and the top two couples dance, as those below wait to dance when the top couple reaches them. Other mid-century sources said that in the similar Spanish Dance, all actives may cross over and all begin dancing at the same time dance.

Honor partners; honor vis-a-vis.

Part 1

- 4 Balance forward and back to vis-a-vis along the sides, change places (2-hand turn)
- 4 Balance forward and back to partner, change places
- 8 Repeat, to places.

Part 2

- 4 All head couples lead down the center. The step isn't specified. Options are a turning polka, since it's a Polka Country Dance, an 8-slide galop, two 4-slide galops, or walking.
- 4 Head couples return up the center. Whether to place, or to one place below, is not specified, but country dances which finish with a pousette usually progress one place during the pousette, so the best guess is returning to top places.

Part 3

- 8 Pousette, which in the Guarcha/Spanish Dance tradition means waltzing (here polka) once and a half around vis-a-vis couple to progress one place. The 18th century style of lateral pousette had mostly disappeared by 1864, but it's a possible secondary interpretation.