

ROYAL SPANISH QUADRILLES. WALTZ TIME.

FIRST SET

from LA TERPSICHORE MODERNE; SELECTION OF THE MOST FASHIONABLE QUADRILLES
by J. S. Pollock, London, 1828

Reconstruction by Richard Powers – An exact reconstruction without any modifications

Currently, this is the earliest known description of a waltz quadrille. Edward Payne had earlier implied that the First Set of Quadrilles could be danced to waltz music, but he gave no description of how to do it.

1st Figure

All eight set and turn partners half round and pass on, gents going to the right and ladies to the left, each passing the first person and turning the next, all round to places.

- 2 All set to partner with a waltz balance forward-back. This works better with all beginning on the right foot.
- 2 Open two-hand Turn partner half round with 2 waltz steps, turning alone 1/2 to the right on counts 5-6.
- 4 Repeat with second corner.
- 4 Repeat with opposite.
- 4 Repeat with first corner.
- 16 Repeat with the same four, to places.

Opposite lady and gent set and swing quite round with the right hand.

- 2 First gent and opposite lady advance with a waltz balancé.
- 6 Turn by the right hand, to places.

First couple set at corners and turn.

- 4 First couple each waltz balancé forward-back to their nearby corners.
- 4 Turn CW by open two hands, to places.

Repeat three more times, with couples 2, 3 and 4 initiating the last two figures.

2nd Figure

Chaine des dames, setting each time before giving hands.

- 2 Two head ladies advance with a waltz balance forward-back.
- 6 Half ladies chain to cross over.
- 2 Two head ladies advance with a waltz balancé.
- 6 Half ladies chain to return to places.

First couple advance to the center and cast off round the sides, gent going to the left and lady to the right.

- 8 First couple give inside hands and advance to the center, separate, gent going to the left and lady to the right, to pass between side and opposite couples. Continue around behind side couple to place.

First couple promenade round the centre.

- 8 First couple give crossed hands and promenade CCW around the inside of the set, to places.

Repeat three more times, with couples 2, 3 and 4 initiating the figures.

3rd Figure

Opposite lady and gent cross, giving right hand, back with left, set four in line (*La Poule fig.*) turn half round in your places and set again.

- 4 First gent and opposite lady advance to give R hands, to change places, and release, facing in.
- 4 Those two give left hands to cross back, without releasing hands, and offer R hands to partner's R hand.
- 2 Four in line waltz balance to new person, then away.
- 4 Turn partner by the right hand to places.
- 2 Partners waltz balancé with the right hand in place.

Double pousette.

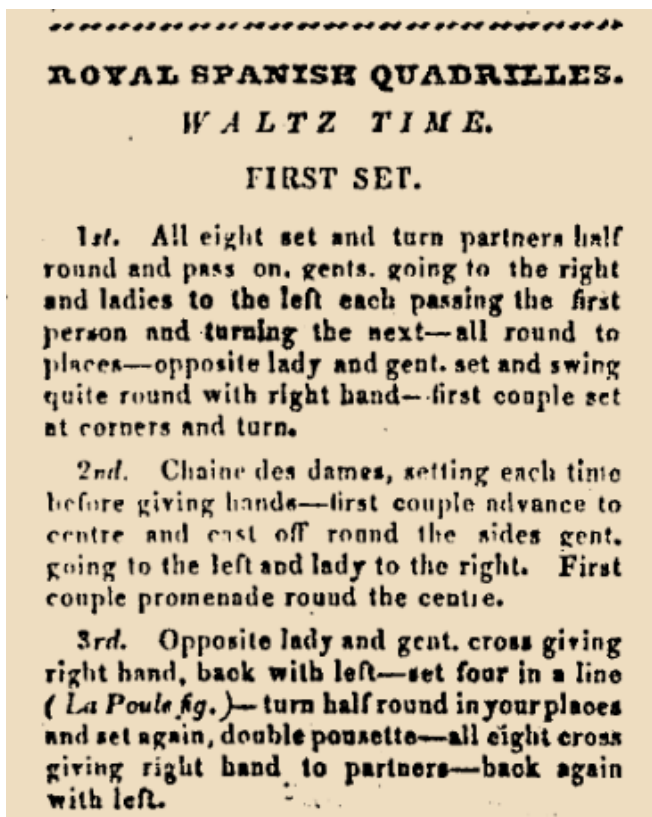
- 8 Interpretation 1 (19th century tradition): Both head couples waltz once around the center of the set.
- 8 Interpretation 2 (18th century tradition): Both head couples cross L hands under R and dos-a-dos as couples, gents passing back to back in the center, traveling laterally without rotating, to places.

All eight cross giving right hand to partners, back by the left hand.

- 4 All face partner, offer R to R hand and exchange places, falling back slightly, facing partner. *
- 4 All offer partner L to L hand and return to places.

* This interpretation preserves the 3rd Figure definition of "cross giving right hand," from *La Poule*.

Repeat three more times, with couples 2, 3 and 4 initiating the figures.



Pollock described two more sets of the Royal Spanish Quadrilles, each of which had three parts.

J. S. Pollock did not provide or suggest music, so since the Royal Spanish Quadrilles are dated 1828, I chose three melodies from Joseph Lanner's Trennungs-Walzer, Op. 19, composed in 1825, for my reconstruction. Lanner wrote the Trennungs-Walzer (Separation Waltz) when Johann Strauss Sr. left his orchestra in 1825.