

The Philadelphia Schottische Quadrille

Reconstruction and choreography by Richard Powers

Schottische quadrilles were especially popular in Philadelphia. Not only did they first appear in Philadelphia (1854), but all mid-19th century Philadelphia dance masters included schottische quadrilles in their books, while these were rarer in Boston, and completely absent in other American and European cities.

I usually teach this quadrille as five separate figures, each performed by head couples, then repeated by the side couples. This is the advanced performance version, for an audience. All five figures are the same, but the repeats are eliminated (because an audience doesn't want to see each figure two or four times), and the five figures are connected to form one three-minute dance.

Introduction

- Honor partners and corners (each is a 4-count bow). Face partner at end.

Figure 1

1866 Charles Brooks, *Philadelphia Schottische Quadrille*, First Figure

This is also in 1858 Elias Howe, *Original Set of Schottische Quadrilles*, First Figure

- All 4 couples schottische in and around in a zigzag pattern: Slow polka in to center, polka out to R side couple's place, Volte (pivots) to cross over. Repeat to end home.
- English Chain with diagonal couples (Heads going to right Sides, Sides going to left Heads, taking R hands with corner and passing them by), then all take closed waltz position and Volte to opposite place, heads passing to *outside* while sides pass to *inside* (side men need to overturn getting into the first pivot).
- English Chain with next diagonal couples in the same manner, ending home. Be thinking ahead: English Chain is followed by Ladies Chain. Men be ready to assist the women in.

Figure 2

1879 Constantine Carpenter, *Schottische Quadrille*, Second Figure

- All women Ladies Grand Chain across with a schottische step, Volte by the L hand with opposite man, who also Voltes forward around her. Men stand during women's slow polka steps, travel during Voltes.
- Ladies Grand Chain back to places.
- Heads balance and change partners, Henry Whale's Philadelphia style: balance in and straight out, Volte forward right diagonal toward the center, the men opening his partner out to his right and placing his partner in the arms of the opposite man at the end (men only travel one-third of the way across). With opposite partner balance out and in, then Volte to original places.
- Sides balance and change partners the same way. (You finish with opposite partner.)

Figure 3

1858 Howe, *Schottische Quadrille*, Third Figure.

- All join hands, forward and back. The men stand in place and turn the women at their left 2 full turns (Volte steps) CW, into the man's place.
- Taking closed position, balance in and around, zigzag pattern, to end crossed over in opposite places.
- Repeat once, regaining original partners and places.

Figure 4

1856 Charles Durang, *Junior Schottische Quadrille*, Fourth Figure

- All women R-Hands Across (Star) halfway around, let go of hands, approach to "deceive" the 3rd man, then circle solo around toward the left, back to the opposite man, with the Volte step. Swing by the L hand with opposite partner with one full schottische step, ending with men facing in.
- All men R Star across 3/4 around, "deceive" the 3rd women and circle back to opposite woman. Swing with the L hand with this (your original) partner.
- All Balance in and straight back out to places, Volte 1/4 around. Repeat to original places. End facing partner in places ready to give your R hand.

Figure 5

1856 Durang, *Junior Schottische Quadrille*, Fifth Figure

- All Grand Chain R & L, passing partner and the next corner with polka step. Full-turn 3rd person (opposite partner) by R hand with Voltes. Repeat to regain partner, but in opposite places. Finish ready to take closed position facing your side couple.
- Heads *balancé* (closed position) to their right Side Couples then release to do the Tiroir figure - the 2 couples passing through each other, the women passing in the center, with 2 turning Volte steps (the men reverse pivot) plus 2 more step-hops. Head women do a second turning Volte while side men do a second turning Volte (because they travel further). Repeat this once more.
- All take partners in closed position and schottische in and around in the zigzag pattern. Repeat once but do 6 pivot steps instead of 4, until the end of music. Stop on 7 and bow.