

Schottische Quadrilles

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

At a 19th century ball, the younger dancers preferred to dance quadrille figures with fancier footwork, like polka, waltz, mazurka and schottische. Schottische Quadrilles were especially popular in Philadelphia, which at that time had some of the most important dancing masters in the country.

I reconstructed 90 schottische quadrille figures, primarily from Philadelphia, then chose the most interesting five figures. The first figure usually has an identifiable quality, as do the third and fifth figures, so all five of the following figures were that same number, in this order, as the original.

*1858 Howe, **Original Set of Schottische Quadrilles**, First Figure
Arranged by Joseph B. Brown, at his Exhibition Balls at Union Hall, Boston*

First figure - Music: [Ripley's Schottische](#)

- Honor partners and corners (somewhat short quick bows). Face partner at end.
- Heads schottische in and around, zigzag pattern. Slow polka in to center, polka out to R side couple, Volte to cross over. Repeat. (8 bars)
- R & L (English Chain) with diagonal couples (Heads going to Right Sides) then all take closed waltz position and Volte to opposite place, heads passing to outside while sides pass to inside (4 bars).
- R & L with other diagonal couples in the same manner. (4 bars)
- Sides schottische round, zigzag pattern. (8 bars)
- R & L with diagonal couples (Sides going to Right Heads) then all take closed waltz position and Volte to opposite place, sides passing to outside while heads pass to inside (4 bars).
- R & L with other diagonal couples (4 bars)
- All schottische round, zigzag pattern. (8 bars)

*1879 Constantine Carpenter, **Schottische Quadrille**, Second Figure*

Second Figure - Music: [Helene Schottische](#)

- Introductory music (4 bars)
- Heads Half Ladies Chain (4 bars)
- Sides Half Ladies Chain (4 bars)
- Heads fwd, change partners, Henry Whale's style. (8 bars)
- Heads schottische around the set, zigzag pattern. (8 bars)
- Sides fwd, change partners. (8 bars)
- Heads schottische around the set, zigzag pattern. (8 bars)

1858 Howe, **Schottische Quadrille**, Third Figure. In 1870s, Howe this became Figure 4, Rochester Schottische.

Third Figure - Music: Mountain Belle Schottische

- Introductory music (4 bars)
- All join hands, fwd and back. The gents turn the ladies at their left 2 full turns CW, into their place. (4 bars)
- Taking closed position, all Balance in, and out to M's place, Voltes a quarter round the set. (4 bars)
- Repeat 4X total, until partners and places are regained.

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

Fourth Figure - Double Ladies Chain - Music: Rainbow Schottische

- Introductory music (4 bars)
- 4 ladies R hands across halfway round, let go of hands, approach and "deceive" the 3rd gent, then circle solo toward the left back to opposite gent. (4 bars)
- Swing with the L hand with opposite gent, 1 full schottische sequence. (4 bars)
- 4 gents R hands across 3/4 round, "deceive" the 3rd lady and circle back to opposite lady. (4 bars)
- Swing with the L hand with opposite lady (4 bars)
- All Schottische around to own places Balance in and out, Volte 1/4 round, repeat. (8 bars)

1856 Durang, **Junior Schottische Quadrille**, Fifth Figure

Fifth Figure - Grand Chain - Music: La Ristori Schottische

- Shorter 2 bar introduction
- All Grand R & L, passing 2 with chasse step. Full-turn 3rd person by R with Voltes. 4X (16 bars)
- Heads *balancé* (closed position) to their right Side Couples and do the Tiroir figure - the 2 couples pass through each other, the ladies passing in center, with 2 turning Volte steps (the gents reverse pivot) plus 2 more step-hops. Head ladies may do a second turning pivot while side gents may do a second turning pivot (because they travel further). Repeat with each couple you meet until in places, taking 4 times for the passes. (16 bars)
- All finish with two Schottische balance and pivot a quarter round patterns, then do pivots only until end of music. (16 bars).