

15 CROSS-STEP WALTZ VARIATIONS

Taught by Richard Powers with Angela Amarillas at the 2013 Waltz Weekend in Berea

BASIC STEP

1) He crosses R over his L with weight; 2) he steps side L with weight; 3) he replaces weight onto his R while also pulling R back a little. Repeat opposite, crossing L over R. She dances opposite, beginning crossing L then crossing R.

TURNING BASIC

Turn 360° every 6 steps, traveling LOD (Line Of Dance).

WATERFALL

Turning Basic where the Lead crosses behind instead of in front on each count 4 while the Follow crosses in front.

HE-GOES-SHE-GOES

A) He raises his L arm and travels straight forward under it, passing in front of her, then lowers his arm (1-2-3); B) Waltz Walk forward with her at his L side; C) He raises his L hand and loops in front of her head into a CCW Follow's Underarm Turn; D) He lowers his L hand and sweeps her by in front of him back to his R side and catches her.

LEAD'S UNDERARM TURN

1-2-3) He raises his L arm and travels straight forward under it, passing in front of her, then lowers his arm.
4-5-6) He lowers his L hand and sweeps her by in front of him back to his R side and catches her.
This works better if the Follow takes longer steps to pass by him on 4-5-6.

HE GOES, WRIST-TUCKED BACK FREE SPIN and SHORT GRAPEVINE

1-6) Lead's Underarm Turn as above, but instead of catching one's partner in waltz position on count 6, he stays in the inside lane just out of reach, so that she knows that she's not coming back to waltz position.
1) He takes her free L wrist with his free R hand and leads her to cross-step L toward LOD.
2) He leads her to do a CCW Back Free Spin (out the back door) as she steps side R down LOD.
3) He lets go and she continues to free spin CCW traveling LOD, stepping side L down LOD.
4-5-6) Take forward hands (or both hands work) facing partner and she does a Grapevine in the outside lane, Side R, cross L behind, side R.
1) Take waltz position for a Turning Basic.

DOUBLE THAT

Since the Follow is traveling, not rotating, at the end, this figure, beginning at the wrist hold, can easily be repeated.

LEAD'S ROLLAWAY

When she Back Free Spins CCW on 2-3, he can mirror her by Back Free Spinning CW.
Guys, lead her first; don't just bail on her.

DOUBLED INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TURNS

We love the elegant simplicity of this one.

1-2-3) He raises his L arm and travels straight forward under it, passing in front of her, then lowers his arm.

4-5-6) He sweeps her by in front of him back to his R side, keeping this hand lower so she knows she's not coming back into waltz position.

1) He takes her free L wrist with his free R hand and leads her to cross-step L toward LOD.

2-3-4-5-6) With his raised right arm, he leads her into a double CCW undarm turn, as she does a double reverse pivot, traveling LOD in the outside lane, side-fwd-side-fwd-side.

1) He lowers his right hand and she steps **back L** against LOD.

2-3-4-5-6) She does doubled CW pivots (he turns her under his raised right arm twice), traveling LOD in the outside lane, fwd-side-fwd-side-fwd.

Repeat *if* it looks like she's enjoying it.

MAKE EACH SECOND TURN A FREE SPIN

It's just that. The Second pair of turns (the CW ones) works better if he braces her R hand with his R hand.

CHAINED 2-HAND GRAPEVINE TURNS

We learned this in the cross-step waltz mixer, but when you continue with a turning waltz, reverse the order of the turns Slip away to open 2-hand position.

1-2-3) The usual three-step Grapevine, with the Lead crossing R behind on count 1.

4-5-6) Inside Turn, where he leads her to turn CW by bringing his **rear R hand** across in front of her then looping her head. Keep this hand when you're done, facing in.

1-2-3) Three-step Grapevine, with the Lead crossing R behind on count 1.

4-5-6) Outside Turn, where he leads her to turn CW with **his forward L hand and** looping her head.

WALTZ LAB VARIATIONS

WAIST SLIDE

1) The Lead disengages his R arm and brings his R elbow slightly over his R hand. 2-3) He cuts toward the right, leading with his R elbow, in front of his partner, lowering his L hand to his lower right ribcage. 4) He almost stops in place (or actually stops), keeping her R hand at his waist just barely enough to spin forward her by him. 5) She flies by him, facing him. 6) Start to re-take waltz position for a Turning Basic.

SHOULDER SLIDE

It's the same figure as above except he places her right hand on his right shoulder as he backs in front of her. Her hand slides across his shoulders.

TOSS-ACROSS FREE SPINS by Lilli Ann Carey, Seattle

From hand-to-hand tossacross ZigZags, he leads her across in front of him toward the inside lane on count 1, then a CCW free spin on 2-3-4. She recovers waltz walk LOD on 5, taking the other hand. He leads her into a cross-step back toward the outside **on count 6**. CW free spin into the outside lane on 1-2-3. His R hand catches her L hand to indicate an extra underarm turn for her on 4-5-6.

LONG GRAPEVINE, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TURNS by Googlers Mark Zavislak and Chen Zheng

At the end of a long 5-step Grapevine, on count 6, he leads her into CCW Inside Turn, releasing his R arm as she turns in. She turns in and under on 6-7-8. She stops rotating on 9 by bringing held hands down. Then he leads her into a CW Outside Turn on 10-11-12. Then catch each other into a Turning Basic.

STAGGERING STEP by Richard Powers, riffing on 1920s French dance manuals.

- 1) Lead crosses R behind,
- 2-3) Reverse pivot (CCW) less than a half-turn, sending Lead into the outside lane.
- 4) Lead crosses L behind in the outside lane,
- 5-6) Pivot (CW) less than a half-turn, sending Lead into the inside lane.

Repeat both