

# THE PEABODY

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

The original Peabody was simply a fast One-Step with a new name. After World War I the dance was still popular but the name One-Step was sounding old. In the New York / New Jersey area the name Peabody became the popular new name. It was often danced to a fast jazzy version of Tiger Rag.

The Peabody then evolved into a second version which preferred polka-skips (as taught by the Castles and others), now called Lock Steps, which increased the chances of stepping on your partner unless you walked in side (Yale) position. Someone started a story about Police Lieutenant William Frank Peabody being too fat to hold his partner in front of himself and that story stuck permanently. The Savoy Ballroom had a version of this they called The Walk but was danced in a much closer ballroom hug, not in Yale Position, and with considerable body sway. The British Quickstep and the Texas Two-Step are also similar to the Peabody.

**Basic:** Walking in Yale (side) Position with woman backing, in a slow-slow-quick-quick (SSQQ) timing. Optional: do a Lock Step on the quick steps, like Texas Two-Step, in a straight line. Dance very smoothly.

The Peabody usually travels relentlessly in line-of-direction.

**Promenade:** The same but with the woman walking forward instead of backing.

**Grapevine Walk:** He walks fwd SSQQ while he leads her alternately backing and fwd in same timing. i.e. she grapevines and he doesn't. She does a side-close on the quick steps instead of lock steps.

**Outside Underarm Turns:** The woman pivots CW under her raise R arm during the two slow steps. Some argue that Underarm Turns are only for the Peabody and don't belong in Foxtrot. Others disagree.

**Yale Walk with Outside Underarm Turn.** Just that, from side position. He leads her early with a side-close on the QQ (not a lock step) before the underarm turn.

**Pivots:** He backs her in Yale position w/ SSQQ timing. Face partner on one of the QQs with side-close steps. Then he cuts in front of her, facing her squarely (leading with his back) and both pivot two slow steps. Exit with QQ run-run steps returning to Yale Position.

**Peabody Half Pivot:** He backs her in Yale position w/ SSQQ timing. Face partner on one of the QQs, then he cuts in front as if beginning pivots but he merely crosses over to her side and starts backing. Remain in R Yale pos throughout except for the momentary pivot step.

**To change back:** (Man is backing in R Yale pos) Face partner on second slow step and pivot on it. The following QQs will be run-run in Yale Position.

**Grapevine Walk with Outside Underarm Turn** Just that, combining two of the above figures.

**Man Backing Yale Walk with Inside Underarm Turn:** She turns CW with open pivots on the slow steps.