

ON-THE-FLY WALTZ VARIATIONS

AT THE 2010 STANFORD WALTZ WEEKEND

plus WALKAROUND WRAP FROM "DANCING WITH THE STARS"

Brief reminders of steps taught by Richard Powers

We first spent a few minutes fine-tuning the Rotary Waltz.

CROSSED-HAND WALTZ He takes her R hand with his R, then gives L hands crossed under R hands. Both pull your hands in close to your heart and swing each other by with the rotary waltz step, passing partner on the inside lane.

CLOUD HANDS Raise one of the held hands then let go; raise the other held hand and let go. Repeat, while doing a turning waltz. Aim for especially gracefully arm movements.

OUTSIDE UNDERARM TURN ENTRANCE into crossed-hand waltz. He transfers her R hand into his R after he turns her under.

FACE LOOP EXIT from crossed-hand waltz, he lets go of his R as both hang on with L hands, which he raises then loops over his right ear then places her L hand on his R shoulder. Then take waltz position with his freed R arm.

WEDDING CAKE From crossed-hands, raise L hands overhead as you both take your partner's waist with your free R arm.

FACE LOOP EXIT from wedding cake. You're almost there already in Wedding Cake.

FOLLOW'S OUTSIDE UNDERARM TURNS

He overturns the first half of a Rotary Waltz (cts. 1-2-3) so she ends up in the outside lane (as opposed to in front of him like a protective shield). He starts raising his L arm on ct. 3 so she can notice it and brace against his hand. He then leads her into a CW Outside Underarm Turn on cts. 4-5-6. Women almost spin in place, not traveling, as he waltzes past her on the inside lane. To recover, she steps fwd R toward him on ct. 1 and he cuts in front of her with the normal Rotary Waltz.

Lead's hint: Maybe change to Swingout Handhold just before leading this figure, as a heads-up for her to get her L hand in off his back.

Follow's hint: As in swing, if your partner turns you a little, turn yourself more in the same rotation.

FOLLOW'S FREE SPIN

It's just that. He releases his L hand a moment early and spins her in place, in the outside lane, on 456.

Hint: Guys, lead an Outside Underarm Turn first. If she did that okay, then you know the Free Spin is likely to work. Don't just throw her away without warning.

FREE SPIN into R/R HAND UNDERARM TURN into CROSSED-HAND WALTZ

Just as she's facing him after her free spin, he bats the back of his R hand into the palm of her R hand and turns her under CW a second time. Then on 456 just take L hands under R and drift for a few steps, to stabilize, before rotating into the cross-hand waltz.

FREE SPIN into R/R HAND UNDERARM TURN into SHADOW POSITION

It's almost the same but after her second turn-under, he places his R hand on her R shoulder and gently guides her to face forward LOD in Shadow Position.

FREE SPIN EXIT FROM SHADOW

To get out of Shadow Position back to closed Waltz Position, he releases her into a half-turn free spin on any 456 of the music.

SURPRISE SWINGOUT

He lets go of his R arm around her, keeping his L / her R hand, releasing to Swingout Position. The secret is to wait until the second half of the waltz, so that she's backing up against LOD as he releases her. Then he draws her back into waltz position, ending with him facing out of the hall.

Hint 1: He should lead her in a moment *before* the count 1 of the return to waltz position, so she can step forward R on count 1.

Hint 2: If he keeps his L foot free and pointed to the L side toward LOD at the end of the catch, she can see more clearly what is about to happen next (a return to waltzing).

QUICKER SURPRISE SWINGOUT

He sends her toward the outside lane with a swingout, on count 4 and passes her on the inside lane. Catch each other by count 6 to resume waltzing. This is the same timing as the Follow's Outside Underarm Turn.

WALKAROUND WRAP FROM "DANCING WITH THE STARS"

Ty Murray, World Champion All-around Cowboy, was partnered by Chelsie Hightower, March/April 2009. The figure we did is right at the beginning of their routine:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBfgizfjiN8>

After the Walkaround Wrap they begin a cross-step waltz, but too bad they don't stay with it for more than an instant. ;)

Reverse Waltz for 4 bars, (he used a muscleman hold). Then:

123) Slip away to 2-hand hold (she can step back R, side L, sweep-hook R crossed tightly behind L

456) His R hand raises and pulls her around his R side and behind, L hand low in front. He steps fwd R, cross-lock L over, small side R

123) She does an inside CW spin, in front of him. She steps forward R, back L, fwd R, side L.

45) Both step side against LOD, re-taking waltz position.

6) Close forward foot to rear foot with weight, changing to Cross-Step Waltz.