

# CROSS-STEP WALTZ VARIATIONS

## at the 2011 SANTA CLARA WALTZ WEEKEND

Brief reminders of steps taught by Richard Powers

**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** Same but turning  $360^\circ$  every 6 steps, traveling in a straight line toward LOD (Line Of Direction).

**STOP-AND-GO** 1) Cross-step; 2) he stops his partner with a "planted" side step; 3) hold while starting to lead a primary cross-step, into a Turning Basic for ct. 4, which becomes a new ct 1. This phase-shifts the dance by 1 bar of music.

**SIDE SWAYS** 1) Cross-step; 2) he stops his partner with a "planted" side step; 3) hold swaying toward LOD with feet apart; 4) shift weight to the rear foot, RLOD with feet still apart; 5) hold swaying RLOD; 6) both close the free foot taking weight, ready to re-commence with the primary cross-step.

**CROSS-SWIVELS** (Swivel Walk) In Closed Position, he crosses R over L, steps side L, repeat, repeat, traveling 6 steps LOD. She mirrors, also crossing in front.

Possibly continue Cross-Swivels with:

**FORWARD CROSS-LUNGE, SIDE STEP RECOVERY** 1) Cross forward LOD stopping with a slight dip; 2) hold; 3) step back on outside foot; 4) step side RLOD; 5) draw 2nd foot back to close; 6) take weight on 2nd foot.

Possibly continue Cross-Swivels with:

**PARALLEL BREAKS** (Salsa Breaks) in which she simply continues her side-cross pattern for one more step. 1) He rocks back R as she breaks fwd R, 2) replace weight, 3) Step side. Repeat opposite, with her breaking forward again.

**ZIG-ZAG** Leader advances slightly with Basic Step as his partner over-crosses, backing against LOD, without any rotation.

**CLOUD HANDS ZIG ZAG** He sends her in toward the center, into a Zig-Zag, on 1-2-3, but before she comes back on 4 he transfers her R hand into his R hand. He leads her to head toward the outside, with held R hands, then raises her R hand at the end of the phrase. As she zigs back to the center on the next count 1, he takes her free L hand with his L on count 1. He brings her L hand laterally through on count 1, raises it on 2, and lets go on 3. Repeat taking R hands. It's better if she over-rotates so that she's almost stepping toward LOD on every count 1, instead of diagonally as in a Zig-Zag. It works better if he doesn't physically pull her hand through. Instead she quickly discerns what's happening and both drift through the figure.

To exit the figure, he simply leads her into the outside lane at the end of one of the Zig-Zags, counts 4-5-6, transfers her R hand into his L hand to take Waltz Position, then do a Turning Basic.

## FACE LOOP EXIT

It's the same exit path as above, with him leading her into the outside lane on 4-5-6, but he keeps doing the Cloud Hand alternations a moment further. Instead of taking waltz position, he takes L-in-L hands on count 1 again, as he's starting to pass her in a Turning Basic, but he raises those L hands into a Face Loop, "combing his R ear with his L hand" and taking Waltz Position, all on count 1.

**LONG GRAPEVINE** Six steps of a lateral grapevine: 1) Leader crosses R behind as she crosses L in front; 2) Side step toward LOD; 3) Leader crosses R in front as she crosses L behind; 4) Side step; 5&6) Same as 1 & 2.

**LONG GRAPEVINE, DOUBLE OUTSIDE TURN** After the Long Grapevine, she crosses behind on 1, then she turns CW under his raised L arm on 2-3-4-5. Side step toward LOD on 6. This also works nicely from Open 2-Hand position.

**LONG GRAPEVINE, OUTSIDE TURN, FREE SPIN** It's just that. She just turns under his arm once, and free-spins for her second turn.

**LONG GRAPEVINE, PARALLEL FREE SPIN, DOUBLE OUTSIDE TURN** For the Parallel Free Spin, counts 1-2-3, he leads her to free-spin CW as he also free-spins CW. 4-5-6) Grapevine side, cross behind, side, traveling LOD. As you catch your partner, she will be crossing behind in a grapevine on the next ct.1, so a Double Outside Turn works well as a third section. Each of the three sections has 6 steps.

**GRAPEVINE UNDERARM (OUTSIDE) TURN** 3 steps of the Grapevine followed by lead turning her once CW under his L arm. 1) Leader crosses R behind as she crosses L in front; 2) Side step toward LOD; 3) Leader crosses R in front as she crosses L behind; 4) Side step letting her face forward LOD; 5-6) Follow's Outside Underarm turn (she backs under).

**INSIDE TURN, GRAPEVINE** He leads her into an Inside CCW Turn on ct 2. 1) Leader crosses R behind as she crosses L in front; 2) Side step toward LOD as lead begins to lead her to turn CCW by passing held hands in front of his eyes; 3) she steps side L toward LOD with her back to him; 4) side step LOD both facing partner, retaking closed waltz position; 5) she crosses L behind as he crosses R in front; 6) both step side LOD.

With the Grapevine Outside Turn, it's 3 steps of a grapevine before the Outside Turn, but take only 1 cross-step before the Inside Turn and finish with the grapevine. i.e., one *begins* with the grapevine; the other *finishes* with the grapevine.

**INSIDE FREE SPIN, GRAPEVINE** From Open 2-Hand Position, he leads an Inside CCW Free Spin with his rear R hand. Same resolution as above. Perhaps lead Inside Turn Grapevine above first to show her the resolution.

**INSIDE ROLLAWAY, GRAPEVINE** From Open 2-Hand Position, he crosses in front on 1, as she does, then leads an Inside CCW Free Spin with his rear R hand as he also rolls away, CW. Same resolution as above. As above, lead Inside Turn Grapevine above first to show her the resolution.

**TURNS AND GRAPEVINE SANDWICH** Inside Turn, grapevine, more grapevine, Outside Underarm Turn.