

# SCOTTISCH ESPAGNOLE

The **Spanish Schottische** of 1920s Paris

This animated style of fox-trot was introduced during the 1919 French vogue for Spanish dance and music, but soon became a popular style of dancing to faster, jazzier fox-trot music. It is characterized by an up-down movement on each slow step, shorter steps than the American fox-trot, a somewhat faster tempo, a simple step vocabulary, and steps that fit into squared musical phrases, like a schottische, as opposed to crossing over musical phrases like many fox-trot and tango steps.

The 1919 version was very slow and smooth; the following is the livelier mid-twenties style.

Many Parisian dance manuals described the basic motion as down-up instead of up-down. I found that a slight majority (and the most influential) described an up-down motion. – Richard

*Men's steps are described below. Women dance opposite unless otherwise noted.  
Note: Parisian salon dances customarily began with the man's right foot, lady's left.*

## La Marche (The Walk)

(WP)  $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$  repeat, backing the lady  
Traveling LOD rise drop heel\* rise drop heel\* (\* without actually touching heel to floor)

## Pas du jazz, pas courus, pas rapides, pas précipités (Jazz Step)

(WP)  $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$  or  $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   
up-down up-down

Note: all slow steps below should also be done with this Spanish Schottisch rise-fall movement.

A common Spanish Schottisch *marche* and *pas du jazz* pattern:

(WP)  $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$  also done backing the man, turning, etc.

## Polka, Side Shimmy

(WP)  $\overrightarrow{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overrightarrow{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overline{\overset{\uparrow}{L}}$   $\overleftarrow{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overleftarrow{\overset{\uparrow}{R}}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   
dip dip also done turning (pas tourné)

## Pas d'habanera, pas hésités (Habanera Step)

(WP)  $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\downarrow}{L}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$   $\overset{\downarrow}{R}$   $\overset{\uparrow}{L}$  also done backing, turning, to side, in place  
rock rock

Spanish Schottische 2

**Pas Espagnole**, petits pas croisés, glissades (SpanishStep)

(then Habanera steps forward) Repeat to right side.  
 Closing R toe to L heel each time. Last step L is longer than the other steps.

**Battus**

Repeat. Possibly stamp lightly on the closing step.  
 A common sequence: follow this with a polka step to the right side. Repeat all opposite.

----- **Not as common** -----

**Zig-zag**

Note: the steps do not cross over as in the Castle Walk zig-zag.

**Le Pas de Boston en tournant** (Boston Waltz)

**Le croisé-accentivé**

NOTATION CODES:

|                      |                        |             |                            |                        |                                |               |                       |                         |                       |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
|                      |                        |             |                            |                        |                                |               |                       |                         |                       |
| slow<br>left<br>step | quick<br>right<br>step | step<br>fwd | point<br>without<br>weight | cross L<br>behind<br>R | close L<br>to R with<br>weight | waltz<br>pos. | promenade<br>position | turn<br>to the<br>right | turn<br>left<br>(CCW) |