



MAZURKA CLANDESTINA

(France - Belgium - Italy - Germany)

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This is an evolving form of contemporary mazurka from Northern France and Belgium, currently spreading to Italy and Germany. As a living tradition of evolving folk mazurkas, these variations show some influences from other partnered dances, especially tango. It has primarily been disseminated via the annual Gennetines festival in France.

The name of this dance has not been standardized. It is most often simply called *mazurka*, with the understanding that the term means this form of mazurka. It is also known as *tango mazurka*, *tangurka* and *mazurka clandestina*. Of the various terms, I have chosen *mazurka clandestina* because it is more descriptive of this form than the more common but nondefinitive term *mazurka*.

MUSIC: French and Flemish folk mazurkas, played slower than earlier folk mazurkas.

RHYTHM: 3/4, often with the traditional Polish mazur cadence on the final cts 4-5.

TEMPO: 115 BPM, with a typical range from 112 to 125 BPM.

FORMATION: Cpls, in Ballroom pos.

STEPS: Ftwk described for M; W use opp ftwk.

Flemish Mazurka Step: Step small side L with wt; replace wt on R; bounce on R closing L to R without wt. Or opp ftwk. In tango mazurka, the bounce is almost imperceptible.

Forward Grapevine: Step side L, cross R behind L, step side L. Or opp ftwk.

Rearward Grapevine: Cross L behind R with wt, step side R; cross L over in front of R with wt. Or opp.

Rotary Waltz: This is usually the standard folk CW turning waltz. But other kinds of waltz are occasionally seen, such as La Java simple stepping in place as you rotate. Or CCW Reverse Waltz.

Running Mazurka Step: Step fwd L; step fwd R; lift L fwd. Or opp ftwk, traveling fwd or rotating.

Parallel Break: M cross R fwd over as W cross L behind, in R/R Side Pos; replace wt back on opp ft.

Tango Close: M step side R; close L to R without wt. W opp ftwk.

STYLING: A wide variety of stylings are done, from smooth to bouncy; very close to partner or far apart, standing tall to slouched over. All steps tend to be small.

FREESTYLE MAZURKA CLANDESTINA

This dance is usually danced on the spot, like salsa and tango, traveling a bit in some figures, but not traveling relentlessly LOD like older mazurkas.

- 4 2 Flemish Mazurka Steps then 1 full CW Rotary (Natural Turn) Waltz. Or turn CCW Reverse Waltz.

- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 bar CW waltz, turning only partway around.
- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step beg opp ft ("over the elbows") then 1 bar CW waltz, turning partway around.

- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 bar CCW waltz (W rock-steps back on cts 5-6).
- 2 1 Running Mazurka Step beg opp ft rotating CW (pivot-pivot-lift) then 1 bar CW waltz.
This one is considered the "basic step" in today's Mazurka Clandestina.

- 2 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 bar CCW waltz (W rock-steps back on cts 5-6).
- 2 1 Running Mazurka Step beg opp ft rotating CW then 1 bar Tango Close.

- 4 3 Flemish Mazurka Steps then 1 bar CW waltz. Repeat opposite.

- 4 1 Flemish Mazurka Step then 1 Rearward Grapevine. Repeat opposite, with M crossing behind.

- 4 2 Flemish Mazurka Steps, 1 Rearward Grapevine, both crossing behind at first, then Tango Close.

- 4 1 Flemish Mazurka Step, 1 Forward Grapevine, M catches W in a Parallel Break, then Tango Close.

- 4 1 Flemish Mazurka Step, 1 Cross-Step Waltz rearward with W crossing in front, 1 Cross-Step Waltz forward with W crossing in front but lifting her L behind on ct. 3, W's grapevine crossing L behind, side R, cross R in front. Man may stand in place, or cross his R ft tightly over his L ft, during final 2 meas.

