

Åttetur fra Asker (Norway)

Åttetur fra Asker (OHT-teh-toor frah AHS-kehr) is widely used among folk dance groups in Norway. It was collected by Klara Semb, the woman who wrote down most Norwegian dances in her four books. Asker is approximately 15 miles west of Oslo. This dance is described in Klara Semb, Norske Folkedanser II, Turdansar, Oslo 1991, ISBN 82-521-3657-5. Alix Cordray presented this older version of the dance at the 1992 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, Ca.

CASSETTE: Norwegian Folk and Figure Dances I, EMI 8C 254-37340 Side A/4. 3/4 meter

FORMATION: The original description calls for circles of 4 couples, but today it is usually done in a large single circle of many couples. W at M R with hands joined and held at shoulder level.

STEPS Waltz*, lift*, step-swing*

Åttetur step: This is a special kind of step-swing. Step fwd on L, bending L knee sharply (ct 1); extend R leg fwd, toe pointed fwd and with the ft just off and parallel to the floor (ct 2); lift on L (ct 3). Keep wt fwd. Step alternates.

STYLING: Svikt: To look Norwegian, both the Åttetur and waltz steps should have a feeling of down-up-down; that is, wt is lowered in cts 1,3 and up on cts 2,3&. Another characteristic is that while rotating CW in the waltz, the steps are thought of as fwd on R and bkwd on L, rather than side to side.

* Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of Calif., Inc.

MUSIC	3/4 meter	PATTERN
<hr/> Measures		
2 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	No action.
	I. <u>CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT</u>	
1-8	Facing slightly RLOD (CW), beg L, dance 8 Åttetur steps fwd. On last step, turn 1/2 CW on ball of R ft to face slightly LOD.	
9-16	Beg L, dance 8 Åttetur steps fwd LOD (CCW). On last step, release hands and W turn 1/2 CCW to face ptr.	
	II. <u>CHAIN TO #5 AND BACK</u>	
1-16	Using Åttetur steps, beg L ft, and R hand to ptr, chain (grand R & L), M moving LOD (CCW), W RLOD (CW). Keep hands at shldr level. Counting ptr as #1, dance to the 5th person. With R joined, turn 1/2 CW to face back the way you came.	

On the turn, raise joined R hands to make an arch and look at other dancer under the arch. W hold skirt with L, M L hand low on hip where leg joins the torso. Return home to ptr, but do not pass ptr, just stop in ptr's orig pos.

NOTE: There is a little less than 2 meas per hand for this chain. The usual way to phrase it in Norway is to take approximately 7 meas to reach the 5th person, 3 meas to go around, and 6 meas to go back to ptr's place. This phrasing is, however, neither conscious nor fully standardized.

III. WALTZ

- 1-2 Bow to ptr, "støypa ljus" as follows: M cross arms in front of chest, bend down and up. W hands on skirt, place ball of L on floor slightly behind body, bend R knee until L knee touches floor, then rise. Head should be bowed and is the last part of body to be raised.
- 3-14 Assume shldr-shldr blade pos*, and dance 12 Waltz steps, turning CW and progressing in LOD. On meas 3, dance sdwd twd ctr, M R, W L. Beg the ptr turn on meas 4 with the M stepping bkwd LOD on L, W fwd LOD on R. End with M facing LOD, W RLOD.
- 15 M: Facing LOD, stepping slightly fwd, step R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); L (ct 3).
W: Facing RLOD, stepping slightly bkwd, step L (ct 1); step R (ct 2); step L (ct 3). At end, separate a little from ptr, allowing hands to slide down ptrs arms. Release M L, W R hands.
- 16 Light greeting: Keep M R and W L hands joined at shldr level and free hands at sides. Both step bkwd on R, leaving L extended fwd on floor (ct 1); hold (ct 2); lift on R, raising L slightly off floor (ct 3). Bow heads slightly.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance pattern as written twice.