

Duke of Kent's Waltz (England)

This English Country dance was taught by Bruce Hamilton at the 2010 North/South Teachers' Seminar held at Monte Toyon, Aptos, CA. (October 8). Publications include Cahusac 1801, A. Simons 1970, Shimer and Keller, *The Playford Ball* 1990, and Hugh Stewart, *The Country Dance Club Book* 2008.

CD: *A Playford Ball with Bare Necessities* vol. 12 (2009), Band 16. 3/4 meter

Formation: Longways duple proper sets (men on one side, left shoulders toward the music, women on the other, couples in groups of two). In each group of two couples, the one toward the head of set will be called "active" and the second cpl with them will be "inactive." As in contras, couples left out at the top and bottom of the set will be inactive for one time through the dance, except that the M in the cpl at the top of the set will be active in Fig. IV, meas 1-4 as will the W in the cpl at the bottom of the set.

Steps: A "running waltz" step is done throughout the dance except for the active cpl in Fig. II, meas 1-4 and the waltz balance steps in Fig. III. In the running waltz step 3 steps are taken per measure, one on each beat; each step is in front of the preceding one, and there is a barely perceptible emphasis on ct 1. In the waltz balance steps, the M step twd ptr with the L ft on ct 1 and touch the R ft next to the L on cts 2,3 (meas 1). Then M step backward on the R ft away from ptr and touch the L ft next to the R (meas 2). W do the same with opp. footwork.

Styling: Movements are smooth (no bounces). On the R and L hand stars, opposites take hand shake hold and provide sufficient tension to make the star turn with good forward momentum. Where changes in direction occur, these should occur soon enough that momentum in the new direction occurs on ct 1 of the new phrase.

Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
1-2		<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action
		I. <u>RIGHT AND LEFT STARS</u>
1-4		Active and inactive cpls take R hands on the diagonal, and circle CW once around.
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 with L hands and moving CCW. End in original positions.
		II. <u>CHASSÉ AND PROGRESSION</u>
1-4		Active cpls chassé down between the inactives: hold both hands with ptr and dance two slow step-closes with steps on cts 1 and 3 (meas 1-2). Repeat with opp ft work and direction (meas 3-4).
5-8		Actives cast off into the inactive cpls pos taking care not to arrive until the end of meas 8. Inactives take inside hands and move up to the active cpls pos on the inside of the set. Optionally, inactives may turn in a small circle (M to L, W to R) on meas 8. [The PROGRESSION has now been accomplished.]
		III. <u>BOX THE GNAT AND SWAT THE FLEA</u>
1-4		All cpls join R hands with their ptr and balance fwd and back (meas 1-2), and change

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- places with the W passing under the raised R arm of the M (meas 3-4) [box the gnat].
- 5-8 All cpls join L hands with their ptr and balance fwd and back (meas 5-6), and change back to original places with the W passing under the raised L arm of the M (meas 7-8) [swat the flea].

IV. DIAGONAL TURN AND PARTNER TURN

- 1-4 All face diagonally R (except for M in cpl at bottom of set and W from cpl at top of set), extend R hand to opposite and turn CW back to place.
- 5-8 All then turn ptr by the L returning to place in progressed position.

Dance repeats from the beginning.