

Gammal Schottis

(Sweden)

Gammal schottis (GAHM-mahl SHOH-tees) means "old-style schottische". Once danced generally throughout Sweden, it has many localized forms, each with a distinct character as well as a variety of handholds. The variants described here come primarily from the northern districts. Gordon E. Tracie researched and learned this dance in Sweden in 1963 and presented it at the 1980 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

The patterns described below are a basic form with variations of footwork and handholds. They are not intended to be a set routine, but should be danced selectively, the man leading as he desires.

RECORD: Viking V-821b; Viking SMF-201 Side A/2 or B/2. 4/4 or 2/4 Meter.
The importance of proper music is stressed. The dance is performed "legato" (smoothly), and the music should be played in the same manner.

FORMATION: Cpls at random about the floor, W at MR, both facing LOD. Pos and handhold are given for various steps below.

STEPS and Schottische* Keep ft close to floor, knees slightly flexed. Step should be smooth with no semblance of a hop. The hop of the schottische is replaced with only a gently raising of the free ft. The step dances and feels like a slow two-step*.

STYLING: The style is reserved and dignified, but with a sense of real power on the rotation. Knees are flexed to provide a lilting quality. The dance should feel "floating", not bouncy, with no sharp movements.

*Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, Ca. 94541.

MUSIC 4/4 or 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION Beg whenever desired

A I. BASIC FORM

Use firm handhold with MR arm over WL arm, hands joined palm to palm and held snugly, elbows bent. Outside hands are free at sides.

1-2 Beg ML, WR dance 2 smooth schottische steps fwd in LOD.

3-4 Assume closed hold pos: Face ptr and swing joined hands (MR, WL) down and around behind W back, ML, WR hands hold ptr upper arm just above elbow. Arms may be either rounded or tucked close to body. Lean over slightly so that upper bodies are closer together than the lower. In this pos, beg ML, WR, dance 4 smooth pivot steps, turning twice CW while progressing in LOD.

II. WOMAN TURN

1-2 With inside hands joined (MR,WL), beg ML, WR dance 2 smooth schottische steps moving fwd in LOD, W turning twice CCW under joined raised hands.

3-4 Take either closed hold as in Fig I or basic polska hold with MR arm around W waist, ML hand on WR upper arm just below her shldr. WL arm on MR upper arm, and WR arm on inside of ML arm, her R hand just below M shldr. Ptrs face, but are slightly to L of each other, R ft of both between ptrs ft. Lean over slightly so that upper bodies are closer together than lower. In this pos repeat pivot turn of Fig I, meas 3-4.

III. SEPARATE

- 1 With arms free at sides, beg ML, WR, dance one smooth schottische step diag away from ptr twd LOD (M fwd diag twd ctr, W to outside).
- 2 Still moving in LOD, repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, moving diag fwd back to ptr.
- 3-4 Repeat Fig II, meas 3-4.

IV. OVERTAKE (optional)

- 1-4 While one cpl dances the Basic Form (Fig I), a cpl behind them may dance Fig III (Separation), using longer steps so as to overtake the first cpl during the 2 schottische steps. For the closed turns they will therefore be in front of the orig first cpl.

Each of the above figures is done as often and in any order as desired.

*** NOTE: *Due to a printing error in the previous issue we are reprinting this dance. Please destroy the copy from your March/April issue of Let's Dance. - Ed.*