

Peasant Military Two-Step

(Donegal, Ireland)

The Military Schottische or Barn Dance and what appears to have been an offshoot from it, the Military Two-Step, were ballroom dances of the early 1900's. Of the many couple dances which traveled over Europe and the United States acquiring new characteristics where they stopped for any length of time, the Peasant Military Two-Step is a good example.

About twenty years ago this dance was one of many enjoyed by Donegal peasants when they danced in their kitchens marking the rhythm with their heavy boots on the stone floors.

MUSIC Irish music in 6/8 jig time. *Top O' Cork Road* is very good.
Give two counts to each measure of music.

FORMATION Couples standing side by side facing counterclockwise around the room with W on R of M. Inside hands are joined and held at shoulder level, elbows bent. Outside hands hang naturally at sides.

STEPS Walking*, Two-step*

MUSIC (6/8)	PATTERN
MEASURE	I. <i>ADVANCE AND RETIRE, SEPARATE AND TURN</i>
A 1 - 2 (4 cts.)	Both starting with inside ft, walk fwd. 3 steps, stamping on 1st step (cts. 1, 2, 1). Swing outside foot fwd. about 6 inches from the floor with knee straight (ct. 2).
3 - 4	Walk bwd. 4 steps starting with outside foot and stamping on last step (cts. 1, 2, 1, 2).
5	Partners drop hands, and still facing counterclockwise move sdwd (W to her R, M to his L) away from partner with one two-step (step <i>with accent</i> ct. 1, close ct. and, step ct. 2).
6	Starting with inside ft, return to partner with one two-step. Again accent the first step (ct. 1) with a little stamp.
7 - 8	With 4 walking steps, partners turn away from each other making a little circle (W turns to her R, M to his L) and finish facing each other. First step is accented with a little stamp.
	II. <i>STEP-CLOSE SIDEWARD AND TURN</i>
B 9 - 10	In closed waltz position, M's L and W's R shoulder pointing in line of direction, step sdwd, M L and W R (ct. 1); close step (ct. 2); again step sdwd M L and W R (ct. 1); close free ft. M R and W L with a light tap and do not put weight on it (ct. 2).
11 - 12	Repeat action of meas. 9-10 moving in opposite direction starting M R and W L.
13 - 16	Partners turn clockwise with four two-steps progressing fwd.
	NOTE: This dance does not allow for much progression over the floor; no doubt due to limited space in a cottage kitchen.