

# Pilky

(Czech Republic)

Pilky (PILL-kee) is a couple dance from the Lašsko region of northeastern Moravia near the Slovak and Polish borders. The name means "saw" (tool) and refers to the sawing motion of the arms in some dances with this name. Vonnie R. Brown learned this dance in the Czech Republic in August 1997 from Ladislav Vašek and Táňa Vreclová of the Prague Conservatory, and taught it at the 1998 University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Music: Cassettes: Slovak and Czech Dances, Vonnie R. Brown, Side B4;  
Dvorana Summer Folk Dance Week, Side B 6.  
CD: Slovak and Czech Dances, Vonnie R. Brown, Band 8. 2/4 meter

Formation: Circle of cpls facing LOD; M on inside, W to R of ptr. Inside hands are joined and held down (V-pos); outside hand down at side or W may hold skirt.

Steps and Styling: Pivot\*, step-hop\*, cast\*, Closed-Ballroom pos\*, Open-Ballroom pos\*.

M and W use opp ftwk.

Gliding Polka (1 to a meas): Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R next to L (ct &); step fwd on L (ct 2); hold (ct &). Step alternates. May be danced beg with R ft.

\* Described in the "General Glossary" or "Scottish Glossary" sections of *Steps & Styling*, (rev. 1996) published by the Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.

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Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas. INTRODUCTION: No action (start with vocal).

I. GLIDING POLKA STEPS; WALK AND CAST

1-2 Beg M L, W R, dance 2 Gliding Polka Steps fwd in LOD (CCW).

3-4 Walk fwd four steps (1 to a ct), with a slight knee bend on each step and stepping each time on the whole ft.

5-6 Repeat meas 1-2.

7-8 Release hands and cast away from each other with four steps. Make a small circle: M to L (CCW), W to R (CW).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. At the end of meas 16, take Open-Ballroom pos with ptr, facing LOD with M L, W R hands joined.

II. GLIDING POLKA STEPS WITH SLOW AND FAST PIVOTS

- 1-2 Beg M L, W R, dance 2 Gliding Polka Steps fwd in LOD. Joined hands (M L, W R) are lowered below the waist on the 1st polka and raised to normal pos on 2nd polka. Continue this pattern of lowering and raising the joined hands during the Gliding Polka Steps from this point on.
- 3-4 Assume Closed-Ballroom pos with M back to ctr; M L, W R ft free. Beg M L, W R, turn as a cpl once around CW with 4 pivot steps (1 step to a ct). Cpls may sway slightly sdwd to M L, M R and repeat.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9-10 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 11-12 Repeat meas 3-4 but turn as a cpl twice around CW with 4 pivot steps (2 steps to a revolution).
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12.

III. STEP-HOPS WITH TURNS

- 1-3 Release hand hold (M L, W R) and open up facing LOD in Back-Promenade pos. M R arm is under W L and holds W R hand; W L hand holds M L hand. Do six step-hops in LOD beg with outside ft.
- 4 With two step-hops wheel as a cpl 1/2 CCW (M back up almost in place, W go fwd) to face RLOD.
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3 in RLOD.
- 8 Repeat meas 4 but turn 1/2 CW (M go fwd, W back up) to face LOD.
- 9-10 Beg M L, W R, dance 4 step-hops fwd in LOD.
- 11-12 Without releasing hand holds, ptrs turn away from each other on 4 step-hops to face RLOD. M turn 1/2 CCW, W 1/2 CW.
- 13-14 Beg M L, W R, dance 4 step-hops fwd in RLOD.
- 15-16 Repeat meas 11-12 but M turn 1/2 CW, W 1/2 CCW. End facing LOD.

Note: With experience the turns away from each other (meas 11-12, meas 15-16) may be delayed until meas 12 and 16 and danced with 2 step-hops. The routine becomes: 6 step-hops fwd in LOD; turn away with 2 step-hops; 6 step-hops fwd in RLOD; turn away with 2 step hops.

IV. GLIDING POLKA STEPS; FAST PIVOTS; CAST

- 1-4 Repeat Fig II, meas 9-12 (2 Gliding Polka Steps fwd; a fast pivot turn).
- 5-6 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-2 (2 Gliding Polka Steps fwd).
- 7-8 Repeat Fig I, meas 7-8 (cast away).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

V. GLIDING POLKA STEPS; PIVOT TURN; SOLO TURN

- 1-2 Repeat Fig II, meas 1-2 (2 Gliding Polka Steps in LOD).
- 3 In Closed-Ballroom pos, dance 1 CW revolution with 2 pivot steps. M beg L, W R.
- 4 Release hand holds and with 2 steps turn away from each other, M turn L with L,R and W turn R with R,L.
- 5-12 Repeat meas 1-4 twice more (3 times in all).
- 13-15 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 16 Release M R, W L hands. M turn W CW under joined hands (M L, W R) with 2 steps. Accent last step with a stamp.
- (9-16) Note: An optional variation for these last measures is to reverse the sequence of pivot turns and solo turns so that the turns away are done first (meas 11,15) followed by pivot turns (meas 12) or the turn-out (meas 16).