

Rugbjerg Firtur (Denmark/Germany)

Rugbjerg Firtur (ROO-bee-yer FEER-toor) is from the Danish Province of Sønderjylland. The name means four-figure dance from Rugbjerg. This village, now reduced to only a few houses, is north of Rødekro. The dance dates back to when this region was part of Germany, and the name of the village was Rauberg. This is a dance for two couples taught by Wolfgang Schlüter and Olivia Linde at the 2013 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. We are grateful to Wolfgang for his help in preparing this description.

CD: 2/4 meter Liflig Sang CD 1, track no. 6. Video: 2013 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, DVD. Camp videos can be viewed in the library at the University of the Pacific, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

Formation: Two cpl sets arranged in a circle. One cpl faces LOD and the other RLOD.

Steps: Reel step: Step on R foot behind L (ct 1), chug fwd on R (ct &), repeat with opp ftwk (cts 2, &). W hold skirts and M have fists on hips.
Pivot steps: In ballroom hold or polska hold (M's L hand on W's R upper arm, R on W's back; W's R hand on M's upper L arm, and L hand on M's R shoulder), turn CW. M steps on L forward and to L while W steps on R between M's ft (ct 1); reverse roles (ct &). Usually one complete turn can be accomplished with these two steps.

Measures	2/4 meter	Pattern
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1 note and 1
chord INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. CIRCLING

1-4 Two cpls join hands to make small circle and move CW with 8 step-hops (step on designated foot on major ct and lift heel off floor or make small hop on ct &). All begin with L ft. Hands are held at waist height or a little higher.

5-8 Change directions and dance CCW with 8 step-hops. The change of direction can be made on meas 5 by stepping back on L ft, turning to face CCW and continuing with a R ft step-hop. Or, the direction can be changed by swinging L ft across in front of R on meas 5 (ct 1). For W, meas 8, cts 2,& need to be step R, L, so that R ft is free for Fig. II.

II. LADIES CHANGE AND REEL-STEPS

1-2 Ladies beginning with R ft pass back to back with one chasseur step (step R to side, close L to R, step R to side) (meas 1); turn over R shoulder to face corner with second chasseur step, starting with L ft (meas 2). Everyone now faces their corner.

3-4 All dance 4 Reel steps (R,L,R,L) facing corners.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with W returning to original positions; all face ptr and dance 4 Reel steps.

III. ELBOW TURNS

1-2 With R elbow hold, turn corners once around with 4 walking steps (start with R ft), to end facing ptr.

3-4 With L elbow hold, turn ptr once around to face corner with 4 walking steps.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 ending in approximate original pos. On meas 8, ct &, take polska or ballroom hold with ptr; and M makes foot change by not taking wt on L ft .

IV. PIVOTS

- 1-8 Each cpl dances 16 Pivot Steps turning CW with ptr and CCW around the other cpl. If the two cpls remain fairly close to each other, each cpl can rotate around the circle twice. End approximately back in original positions.

Repeat dance to end of music, but on the second and all subsequent times through, use the alternate Fig. I.

alt. Fig. I BUZZ STEPS WITH BASKET HOLD

- 1-8 W put hands on M's shoulders; M make back basket hold with hands clasped behind the W. Dance 16 buzz steps moving CW, stepping fwd toward ctr with the R ft, toes pointed approximately toward the ctr (ct 1), and stepping back onto the L (ct &.).
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