

Cross Country Waltz

Region: Shelbourne, Ontario This dance is found in many parts of Canada. It is quite similar to the Scottish and English “Waltz Country Dance” and perhaps has evolved from that dance after it arrived with the early settlers.

Basic Step: Waltz

Formation: Two couples facing each other. The W is on the M’s R. The groups are scattered about the room.

Measures:	Counts:	Pattern:
1 – 4	1 - 12	Introduction
		Figure 1:
1 – 4	1 - 12	The 2 couples dance a <u>Pass Through and Change Sides</u> . (Dancers waltz forward 2 waltz steps passing the opposite dancer by the R shoulder. Turn a ¼ turn toward partner and change places with 2 waltz steps by passing L shoulders.)
5 – 8	13 - 24	Couples repeat measures 1 – 4, Figure 1. They will end in their original places but should make a ½ turn at the end of the figure to once again be facing their partner.
9 – 16	25 – 48	Repeat measures 1 – 8, Figure 1 but begin by passing partner by the R shoulder and moving through the set in the opposite direction.
		Figure 2:
1	1 – 3	Join hands in a circle of 4. Balance forward with 1 waltz step swinging arms gently forward.
2	4 – 6	Balance backward with 1 waltz step swinging arms gently back.
3 – 4	7 – 12	Release partner’s hand and the M helps the opposite W move with 1 waltz step to face him. Join both hands with this person momentarily. Release the original leading hand keep the other hand joined to help the lady complete her turn to end in the other W’s place with 1 more waltz step. M balances in place with 2 waltz steps.
5 – 8	13 – 24	Repeat measures 1 – 4, Figure 2. When the W has reached her original place, partners assume social dance position.
		Figure 3:
1 – 8	1 – 24	Couples waltz freely about the hall. At the 8 th waltz step face another couple ready to begin the dance again.

Note: I have observed and danced Cross Country Waltz in other parts of the province with variations to Figure 3. Any of these are acceptable but should **never** be combined within the same dance.

Variation 1: Instead of waltzing freely about the hall, couples dance around each other so that the group of 2 couples will always remain the same.

Variation 2: The sets of couples will begin the dance arranged in a double circle around the hall. During Figure 3, they will waltz around the other 1 ½ times and end facing in the direction in which they originally began. In this way they will be ready to begin the dance again with a new couple.

Presented by Dale Hyde and Helga Hyde

Mainewoods Dance Camp
August 2003

Ontario Folk Dance Camp
Waterloo, Ontario May 2005

SIFD Summer School
Swansea, Wales July 2015

UK Tour March 2017