

Circle Waltz Mixer

This might be called 'The Ubiquitous Circle Waltz Mixer'. We have seen it in so many places that we are not sure where we first learned it, probably on a dance floor somewhere. It is a wonderful dance for a wedding.

Music: In Continental Mood (as recorded on *Sashay the Donut*) or any waltz (AB is best rather than AABB).

Formation: Circle of couples.

- A (48) Take hands around circle and step in and out. (6)
Gents roll lady on the left from left to right. (6)
Take hands in circle again and step in and out. (6)
Gents roll new left hand lady from left to right. (6)
Take hands in circle again and step in and out. (6)
Gents roll new left hand lady from left to right. (6)
Take hands in circle again and step in and out. (6)
Gents roll new left hand lady from left to right,
and then the gent turns right (facing CCW)
taking both hands with this lady. (6)
- B (48) Holding hands with this new partner step in towards the center, swinging arms in, and then step out, swinging arms out. (6)
Step in swinging arms in, let go of partner's hands and each of you turn single (gent turning CCW and lady turning CW). (6)
Take hands with partner again and reverse:
step out, swinging arms out, and step in swinging arms in. (6)
Step out swinging arms out, let go of partner's hands and each of you turn single (gent turning CW and lady CCW). (6)
- Waltz in place. End waltz on original sides and take hands in big circle to start the whole sequence over again. (24)

We like to repeat the dance until everyone has their original partner back, and finish with a short partner waltz.

Notes: In the A music rolling figure, the gents gently tug the left hand lady's hand. The gent is the 'post' and does not move his feet. The lady moves to her right while she turns right. Halfway through the figure the lady is facing the gent and takes his right hand in her left, so the two briefly have two hands held. As the lady continues moving, she hangs on with her left hand to the gent's right hand, lets go of his left with her right, and ends up to the right of that gent, facing the center of the circle. The figure happens four times, except, on the fourth time, the gent 'keeps' the lady after the roll: they face each other, taking both hands.

In the first “B” figure the initial swinging in and out is like a ‘wind up’ into the third swing which flows right into the turn single. Some folks, especially children, like to hang on to their partner’s hands when they do this turn single, so it ends up being a ‘roll the barrel’ figure, but we always teach it with the couples letting go of hands.

The Circle Waltz Mixer can work at a mixed age dance if every young child has an older, more experienced partner, and if you give the dancers the option of doing a two hand turn instead of waltzing at the end of the B music.