

POLSTER TANC

Origin: Polster Tanc, sometimes known as the "Pillow Dance", is a dance performed at weddings in Slovenia and is very reminiscent of an American game called "Spin the Bottle". In the old country, a forfeit was paid by the dancer who had been kissed, on leaving the circle. This was a free donation of money, placed on a large platter on a table just outside the circle. It was later turned over to the bridal couple to start them off on their new life. The dance can also be done without anyone paying forfeits or anyone leaving the circle, if it happens to be a small group and they so desire.

Presented by: Dick Crum, Maine Folk Dance Camp

Formation: For as many as will in a large circle, hands are joined. One person in the center (preferably a man to begin with, hold a pillow in his hands. In a large circle, you can do the dance with several people in the middle.

Measures

PART 1

1-8 Circle moves CW w/waltz steps. M in center move in opposite direction, looking for a partner.

9-16 Circle moves CCW w/walt steps. M in center move in opposite direction, still looking.

PART 2

17-20 M in center chooses partner. Place pillow on the ground in front of chosen person. Both kneel on the pillow and kiss and/or hug. The dancers in the circle stop dancing during this interlude.

PART 3

21-36 The kneeling couple stand and take polka position carrying the pillow w/ them. They dance the polka together in the center of the circle, as the circle of dancers move to the L and R w/polka steps.

To continued the dance, the men leave the circle, pay the forfeit while the chosen W carrying the pillow go through the same procedure until they choose their male partners. This keeps up until the end of the music. If you do use the forfeit version, it is important to note that only the men pay the forfeit.

If the group is extremely large, you can have several separate circles instead of just one...also instead of pillows, one can issue colourful large kerchiefs, etc.

