

## THE CASTLE SCHOTTISCHE

4/4 time    Tempo: = 132



Unlike most ragtime-era dances, which were usually improvised combinations of characteristic steps, this dance was taught as a specific sequence. It appeared simply as the "SCHOTTISCHE - as taught at the Castle School of Dancing," in the 1915 booklet *Victor Records for Dancing*. Later that year it was described as THE CASTLE SCHOTTISCHE in the Philadelphia dance manual *Dancing Without a Master*.

Both dancers face LOD and take Skater's Position with the lady on the right.  
Both the gent and the lady commence with their right feet.

- A1 Do a Two-Step forward to the right: Glide R forward diagonally to the right; close L to R; glide R forward diagonally again; swing L across the R.
  - A2 The same Two-Step done forward diagonally to the left, beginning L.
  - B Walk forward R, swing the L forward (low swing); walk forward L, swing the R forward; repeat both for a total of four step-swings. As you take the fourth step, keep left hands only and turn  $\frac{1}{4}$  toward your partner.
  - C1 Facing partner, do a Two-Step (R, close L, R) directly to your right side (not forward), retaining your partner's left hand as they Two-Step away from you.
  - C2 Two-Step to your left side, beginning L, dropping left hands and catching your partner's right hand with your own as you pass in front of each other.
  - D Keeping right hands, both walk three steps forward (R, L, R) to exchange places with each other. On the fourth count, touch the L toe lightly to the floor without weight, to help prevent the tendency to take four steps here. On this last count, the lady remains facing LOD while the man swivels a half-turn to his right, to fall in behind his partner in reverse Skater's Position (he is at her right, with his left arm behind her back).
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- A&B Repeat the first two sequences, commencing with the L. All footwork will be opposite from above.
  - C Repeat the side Two-Step commencing to the left side with the L, then to the right, and ending by catching left hands.
  - D Keeping left hands, both walk three steps forward (L, R, L) to return to original positions. The gent pivots to his left on the last count to regain Skater's Position.

Repeat the sequence. The style of dancing should be relaxed, with just a touch of elegance.

Note: This dance most likely evolved into the "Salty Dog Rag" that is done by folk dancers today.

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