

R O S A S   D E   M A Y O

(A polka from Sonora, Mexico - Grace C. Nicholes )

The Mexican Corrido is based on the European paso doble, but it is a new world version less sophisticated and polished. The Mexican polka is based on the polka of the southwestern American cowboys, and it also has a character of its own. Furthermore, it incorporates steps from the Corrido, since polkas are usually played by a band and are excellent music for corridos or paso dobles - that is, if it is a Mexican band.

This dance pattern (Rosas de Mayo) is dredged from my childhood memories of parties held at my great-aunt's Mexican boarding house. I may have taken liberties with the choreography, as I was too young and not usually invited to dance, but I am sure the basic steps and the spirit are correct.

RECORD:        Rosas de Mayo - Victor 75-9188 - or any Mexican polka.

STEPS:        Polka - a very light, bouncy leap polka; keep knees softly bent, leap frwd onto LF (ct 1), step R beside L (ct &), step L beside R (ct 2), repeat opp. ft.

One-step - an even walking step on the balls of the feet. Do not shuffle the feet but step on each count of the music. Partners are facing; one moves bkwd, the other frwd, their feet moving in the same line.

3-step or 2-step turn. Individual turns moving in the direction indicated. In this dance partners remain parallel and pivot on the steps to always finish the turns facing partner. Turn starts with a sdwd. step in the traveling direction.

Grapevine - partners facing travel sdwd. in LOD.

M - step sdwd. L on L, step R across in front of L, step sdwd.  
L on L, step R across in back of L

W - steps are counterpart of above.

One step to each beat of music; the step may be repeated any number of beats; the above described grapevine requires 4 beats or 2 meas.

FORMATION:    Couples in ballroom position dancing at random, but traveling in LOD (CCW) around the dance space.

MUSIC - 2/4 tempo

P A T T E R N

Meas

1 1-5        INTRODUCTION - Couples standing in ballroom pos.

MUSIC A     STEP I - M starts LF and moves frwd. W RF moves bkwd.  
1-2        4 one-steps in LOD  
3        M-point L toe frwd., step R in place, W point R bk. etc.  
4        M-point L toe bk., step R in place, W point R frwd. etc.  
5-8       Repeat meas. 1-4  
9-16      8 polkas-couple turning CW & traveling LOD  
17-32     Repeat meas. 1-16

- MUSIC B STEP II. Dir. written for M. W does counterpart thruout
- 1-2 2 step - close to M's L (sdwd. L, close R to L, - repeat)  
Release prt. from ballroom pos., each move sdwd.  
individually in LOD or RLOD as indicated but remain  
in front of prt.
- 3-30 There are 56 counts to these 28 meas; take 1 step to each  
count (beat) of music.
- 1, 2 Step sdwd. L in LOD, frwd, R in LOD (turn bk. to prt)  
3, 4 L in LOD crossing bk. of R, sdwd. R in LOD  
5 frwd. L in LOD (turn to face prt.),  
6 R in LOD crossing bk. of L,  
7-9 CCW 3-step turn (move LOD step L,R,L),  
10-11 R in LOD crossing frt. of L & lift LF up, step L,  
12-14 CW 3-step turn (move RLOD step R,L,R),  
15-16 L in RLOD crossing frt. of R & lift RF up, step R,  
17-20 2 CCW 2-step turns (Move LOD step L,R,L,R)  
21 sdwd, L in LOD,  
22-23 R in LOD crossing frt. of L & lift LF up, step L,  
24-30 3 step-close to M's R in RLOD, sdwd, R on R,  
31 frwd. L in RLOD (turn bk. to prt.)  
32-33 R in RLOD crossing bk. of L, sdwd. L in RLOD,  
34 frwd. R in RLOD (turn to face prt.),  
35 L in RLOD crossing bk. of R,  
36-38 CW 3-step turn (move RLOD step R,L,R),  
39-40 L in RLOD crossing frt. of R & lift RF up, step R,  
41-43 CCW 3-step turn (move LOD step L,R,L),  
44-45 R in LOD crossing frt. of L & Lift LF up, step L,  
46-48 CW 3-step turn (move RLOD step R,L,R),  
49-50 L in RLOD crossing frt. of R & lift RF up, step R,  
Assume ballroom pos.  
51-56 3 step-close to M's L move LOD
- MUSIC A  
1-32 REPEAT STEP I.
- Break 1-3 In ballroom pos. M - step sdwd. L, close R, repeat twice.
- MUSIC C STEP III  
1-8 8 polkas couple turning CW & traveling LOD  
9-16 3-1/2 step-close to M's L (LOD), 3-1/2 step-close to M's R.  
17-28 12 polkas couple turning CW & traveling LOD  
29-32 8 step pivot couple turning CW.
- Break Dir. written for M. W does counterpart.  
1-4 2 step-close to M's L, 4 count grapevine in LOD  
5 Stamp L & hold 1 count  
6-10 Repeat meas. 1-5 start M's R travel RLOD  
11-13 Sdwd. L, close R, repeat twice.
- MUSIC C  
1-28 REPEAT STEP III. meas. 1-28  
29-31 5 step pivot couple turning CW  
32 3 stamps in place.