

Stjernetur

(Norway)

Stjernetur, “the star figure,” was originally a dance for 8 couples. It was described first in 1948, and then in later editions of Klara Semb, Norske Folkedansar, Turdansar, Oslo 1991. ISBN 82-521.3657-5. The original dance never achieved much popularity, mostly because it was very repetitive and a lot of waiting.

In recent years, as the interest in “stildans” (formational dance) has grown, this dance has been reworked into a 4 couple version that has achieved wide popularity.

Pronunciation:

Music: Any square waltz, preferably one that is elegant and melodious, rather than boisterous and bouncy. Length: AABBAABB, each phrase 16 meas.
CD: *Sving Deg*; 3/4 meter

Formation: A square with four couples, W on M’s right. In this dance, the couples are usually oriented to face the four walls of the room (in the original, it was a circle of 8 couples).

Steps: Gliding waltz L: step fwd on L (ct 1); step fwd on ball of R ft (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3). Repeats with opp ftwk. Steps are long with a gliding quality, not much bounce.

Turning waltz L: step fwd on L (ct 2); step on ball of R ft beside L (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3). Repeats with opp ftwk. This step has a down-up-down quality and is the usual Norwegian waltz step. An alternative way to do the step is to place the ball of R ft without taking wt on ct 2, and simply lower wt on L on ct 3. This way of doing the step is often used when it is not necessary to cover any distance, e.g., each L-footed step during a turn.

Styling: When the M has one free hand, he places it on his hip in a very low pos—where the leg meets the torso (“under the pack of cigarettes in the rear pocket”). If he has two hands free, the L is low on his hip, while the R hangs down at his side.

W holds skirt with free hand(s).

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

During the introduction, M step into the square and turn to face ptr.

PATTERN

1-4

Deep bow.

M: Meas 1 and 2: Step slightly back on R, keeping L on ground, and bow. At the same time, bring R arm slightly out to side, then in front of body to end somewhat in front of heart. Meas 3 and 4: Straighten up, shift wt fwd, and close R to L to return to starting pos. Move arm out down to side.

W: Meas 1: Holding skirt, make a little circle on the floor with R toe (presumably to move long skirt out of the way).

Meas 2: Place R toe slightly behind L ft, and lower wt – all the way down. Head bows first, then lower wt.

Stjernetur—continued

- Meas 3: Shift wt to back leg (R) as you raise wt part way up. Stay in bowed pos. This meas ends with R leg bent as far as possible with heel on ground, L leg straight, L ft on ground without wt.
- Meas 4: roll the rest of the way up, shift wt fwd onto L, and place R ft beside L. The entire bow is very fluid, and has a rolling, circular feeling.
- 5-12 M form a R hand star in the ctr. Extend R thumb fwd, and hold fingers around the thumb of the person behind. You are responsible for finding the thumb behind you. Free hand low on hip. Rotate 1 3/4 using 8 gliding waltz steps, start with L. The W stand still and wait, hands holding skirt.
- 13-16 M release star and turn once with the W in front of them. Hold L hand in L and use 4 gliding waltz steps. (I prefer that the hand is held high, so that the ptrs look at each other under the arch, but hands may also be held at shldr ht.)
- 17-40 Repeat meas 5-16 twice more, to dance with each woman in turn.
- 41-48 Repeat mas 5-12 once more to end in front of ptr.
- 48-52 Deep bow.
- 53-64 Take shldr waist pos with ptr and waltz once around the square with a turning waltz. As always after a deep bow, M begins by dancing fwd on his R, W back on her L.
- 65-128 Repeat the entire dance with the roles reversed. The W make the star, and turn with the M who are waiting in the square. The waltz turn at the end still starts with M R and W L, but you must start turning right away.

Presented by Alix Cordray