



Uncle Pen Polka

Partner formation dance



This is a fun polka routine where dancers start in lines facing each other and end up doing the steps in a circular formation. No alternative tracks are suggested because the routine is choreographed to match the Ricky Skaggs version exactly.

Wait 35 counts before starting (8 polka basics + 1,2,3)

LEADER	FOLLOWER	COUNT	
A. 'OPEN' SECTION.			
<i>Start in lines in closed position with your partner.</i>			
<i>Leaders should be facing LOD (across to the opposite line) and followers should be facing RLOD (have their backs to the opposite line).</i>			
<i>Couples should be offset (leaders facing a gap in the opposite line) so that the lines can cross freely without collision.</i>			
A1. "One-and-two-three-and-OPEN"			
Step L fwd, step R tog, step L fwd	Step R back, step L tog, step R back	1&2	1&2
Step R fwd, step L tog, step R fwd <i>pushing follower with left hand so you are both 'open' to LOD</i>	Step L back, step R tog, step L back	3&4	3&4
A2. "Fwd-together-fwd-together-fwd-together-fwd", turn, repeat with opposite footwork			
Step L fwd, step R tog	Step R fwd, step L tog	1&	5&
Step L fwd, step R tog	Step R fwd, step L tog	2&	6&
Step L fwd, step R tog	Step R fwd, step L tog	3&	7&
Step L fwd angling toes to right to prepare for R turn	Step R fwd	4	8
<i>Still holding your partner, quickly pivot around 180° R on ball of L foot</i>	<i>Still holding your partner, quickly pivot around 180° R on ball of R foot</i>	&	&
Step R fwd, step L tog	Step L fwd, step R tog	1&	9&
Step R fwd, step L tog	Step L fwd, step R tog	2&	10&
Step R fwd, step L tog	Step L fwd, step R tog	3&	11&
Step R fwd (<i>make sure that your R foot is ahead of the follower's L foot so that you have leverage to push them back</i>)	Step L fwd	4	12
A3. Follower turn under ready to go back the way you've come			
Triple step L, R, L <i>raising your L arm and pushing the follower under it with your R hand to go back into Western/closed. Turn to face the follower.</i>	Triple step R, L, R turning 180° (1/2) R <i>under leader's L arm</i>	1&2	13&14
Triple step R, L, R <i>taking follower into closed position</i>	Triple step L, R, L <i>facing leader in closed position</i>	7&8	15&16

A4. Three count bridge: "HEEL, TOE, HEEL"			
Touch L heel fwd at 45°L, touch L toe tog, touch L heel fwd at 45°L (heel, toe, heel)	Touch R heel fwd at 45°R, touch R toe tog, touch R heel fwd at 45°R (heel, toe, heel)	1,2,3	17,18,19
A5. REPEAT counts 1 - 12 of section A (A1 - A2)			20 - 31
B. SET UP FOR HAND TOUCHES & SHOULDER ROLLS			
<i>Leader turning the follower beside them and holding 'inside' hands facing your original starting direction + a rock-step to prepare for section C</i>			
B1. Turn follower beside leader both facing LOD holding inside hands			
Triple step L, R, L turning follower 360° (full turn) R under your L arm	Triple step R, L, R turning a full turn and ending up beside the leader	1&2	32&33
Release L hand	Release R hand		
Triple step R, L, R taking follower's L hand into your R hand and facing LOD (<i>original starting position</i>) holding 'inside' hands	Triple step L, R, L facing LOD holding 'inside' hands (<i>your L hand joined to leader's R</i>)	3&4	34&35
B2. Two count bridge: "ROCK, STEP"			
Rock: back on L, fwd onto R	Rock: back on R, fwd onto L	1,2	36,37
C. HAND TOUCHES AND SHOULDER ROLLS			
<i>Moving in line of dance touching front hands (style your unused hands out rather than letting them hang). Shoulder rolls are quick and take only one (1) beat.</i>			
C1. Hand touches twice (in, out, in, out)			
Turning (R) towards follower, touch your L hand to follower's R hand as you shuffle fwd L, R, L	Turning (L) towards leader, touch your R hand to leader's L hand as you shuffle fwd R, L, R	1&2	38&39
Turning (L) to face LOD, shuffle fwd R, L, R (<i>style L hand out</i>)	Turning (R) to face LOD, shuffle fwd L, R, L (<i>style R hand out</i>)	3&4	40&41
<i>Turning (R) towards follower, touch your free (L) hand to follower's R hand as you shuffle fwd L, R, L</i>	<i>Turning (L) towards leader, touch your free (R) hand to leader's L hand as you shuffle fwd R, L, R</i>	1&2	42&43
Turning (L) to face LOD, shuffle fwd R, L, R (<i>style L hand out</i>)	Turning (R) to face LOD, shuffle fwd L, R, L (<i>style R hand out</i>)	3&4	44&45
C2. Shoulder roll twice (1-and-ROLL, 3&4, 1-and-ROLL, 3&4)			
Step L fwd turning 90° R (towards follower), step R tog	Step R fwd turning 90° L (towards leader), step L tog	1&	46&
With your free (L) hand (palm up!), take follower's R hand.	Join your free (R) hand with leader's L hand		
Taking your R arm up, turn 270° R on ball of L	Taking your L arm up, turn 270° L on ball of R	2	47
Step R fwd, step L tog, step R fwd	Step L fwd, step R tog, step L fwd	3&4	48&49
Step L fwd turning 90° R (<i>towards follower</i>), step R tog	Step R fwd turning 90° L (<i>towards leader</i>), step L tog	1&	50&

With your free (L) hand (palm up!), take follower's R hand.	Join your free (R) hand with leader's L hand		
Taking your R arm up, turn 270° R on ball of L	Taking your L arm up, turn 270° L on ball of R	2	51
Step R fwd, step L tog, step R fwd	Step L fwd, step R tog, step L fwd	3&4	52&53
D. CUDDLE - STARBURST - CUDDLE			
<i>Each step in this section has rhythm (1&2,3&4). Do the move on 1&2. Triple step on 3&4.</i>			
D1. Turn into cuddle, triple step, duck out, triple step			
Pull your R hand sharply in and keep it low wrapping the follower into a cuddle (while triple stepping L, R, L)	Turn a full turn (360°) L into a cuddle (follower's wrap) stepping R, L, R	1&2	54&55
Triple step R, L, R	Triple step L, R, L	3&4	56&57
Triple step L, R, L while ducking the follower out of cuddle	Duck out (move backwards) of cuddle triple stepping R, L, R	1&2	58&59
Triple step R, L, R turning slightly R to face the follower (Your arms should now be crossed R over L with both hands connected to follower)	Triple step L, R, L and extend arms facing the leader (Your arms should now be crossed R over L with both hands connected to leader)	3&4	60&61
D2. Starburst			
Triple step L, R, L towards the follower turning slightly R to go back-to-back at the same time as lifting both arms in the air and spreading the hands	Triple step R, L, R towards the leader turning slightly R to go back-to-back at the same time as lifting both arms in the air and spreading the hands	1&2	62&63
You should now be standing back to back with the follower with hands still holding	You should now be standing back to back with the leader with hands still holding		
Triple step R, L, R	Triple step L, R, L	3&4	64&65
D3. Back into cuddle			
Pull your R hand sharply in and keep it low wrapping the follower into a cuddle (while triple stepping L, R, L) and turning to face LOD	Turn a full turn (360°) L into a cuddle (follower's wrap) stepping R, L, R. end facing LOD	1&2	66&67
Triple step R, L, R	Triple step L, R, L	3&4	68&69
D4. Three count bridge: "STEP, STEP, TOUCH" duck out & back into Western/closed			
While ducking the follower out from cuddle - step L, R, touch L turning 180° R and facing the follower taking them into Western/closed.	Duck out from cuddle, stepping back R, L, touch R. End in Western/closed ready for more.	1,2,3	70, 71, 72

Your L foot should be free (weight on R) and ready to go back the way you've just come	Your R foot should be free (weight on L)		
E. REPEAT SECTIONS A THROUGH D3			
<i>When ducking the follower out (see counts 58&59), this time duck them out at an angle so that you will do the Starburst in circle LOD and complete the routine in a circle).</i>			
Add...			
E1. Three count bridge: "HEEL, TOE, HEEL"			
With the follower still in cuddle and facing circle LOD, touch L heel fwd at 45°L, touch L toe tog, touch L heel fwd at 45°L (heel, toe, heel)	Still in cuddle and facing circle LOD, touch R heel fwd at 45°R, touch R toe tog, touch R heel fwd at 45°R (heel, toe, heel)	1,2,3	142, 143, 144
F. REPEAT SECTIONS A THROUGH D3			
<i>.... in a circle travelling around in LOD.</i>			
Starting with follower in cuddle.			
Make the following changes to adapt steps to moving in a circle:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When 'opening' to LOD (count 4), leaders step away from the follower and follower places their left hand on leader's right shoulder. • Instead of 'sending the follower back' the way they have come (see counts 13 - 16), leaders should just turn the follower clockwise (outside/right turn) in front of them. • When setting up for hand touches and shoulder rolls while in a circle, turn the follower to the outside rail. Do the 'rock, step' (see counts 36, 37) both facing circle LOD holding 'inside' hands (leader's R hand holding follower's L hand) 			
F1. One count bridge: "HEEL!"			
Touch L heel fwd at 45°	Touch R heel fwd at 45°	1	214
G. ENDING			
G1. REPEAT Sections A1 & A2			
G2. REPEAT Sections B1 & B2 remembering to turn the follower to the outside rail			
G3. Rotating basics			
Turning 180° R on 1&2, and 180° R on 3&4 do rotating polka basics around the circle until the music ends (8 polka basics [1&2,3&4] + 1 polka basic & POW!)	Rotating polka basics in R circles around the dance floor		233 - 269

Choreo.: *John Bishop, Melbourne, Australia*
 Music: *Uncle Pen Ricky Skaggs*
(on double CD 'Country Gentleman - The Best Of Ricky Skaggs')