

Category: **Ice Dance**

Subject: **Description, chart and diagram of Pattern Dances (Novice International Competitions)**

American Waltz (source: ISU Handbook Ice Dance 2003, § I-5)

Music - Waltz $\frac{3}{4}$
Tempo - 66 measures of 3 beats per minute
- 198 beats per minute
Pattern - Set
Duration - The time required to skate 2 sequences is 58 seconds.

The American Waltz consists of a series of semi-circular lobes skated towards and away from the midline. These lobes are joined at the ends by 6 beat outside swing rolls. The lobes nearest the end/short barrier are positioned so that their ends are closer to the midline, making it possible for a single 6 beat roll to connect them. All steps should be of equal curvature so that each group of three steps forms a large semi-circle with each lobe starting directly towards or away from the midline.

The steps of each lobe are the same except that they are skated alternately left and right depending on the direction of the lobe. Although the sequence of steps is the simplest of any ice dance, because of the amount of rotation generated by the couple it is among the most difficult to skate correctly. In order to rotate smoothly, it is necessary for the partners to keep their shoulders parallel with the center of rotation between them, rather than having one partner whip around the other on the swing three turns. The rotation must be continuous and even, rather than sudden jerks with pauses between.

Each step of the American Waltz is held for 6 beats (2 measures) which gives considerable length to each step. The swing of the free foot/leg must be from the hip without any bending of the free leg knee. The threes must be turned with the feet close together, but without pause in the motion of the free foot.

The free foot should not pass the skating foot before the three is turned. While maintaining close waltz hold throughout, the partners must synchronize their free leg swings with each other as well as with the music, turning the swing threes on count 4. These types of turns are known as “American Waltz Type Three Turns”.

The transition from one foot to the other is accompanied by a bending of the skating knee. This action coincides with the major accent (count 1) and serves to emphasize it. The knee action that adds lilt to the dance must be well controlled and gradual or the dance may become bouncy with the skater losing flow and balance. The dancers must stand upright using a nicely controlled body weight change when simultaneously starting a new lobe.

The expression of waltz music is characterized primarily by evenness of flow between points of major and minor emphasis. The points of major emphasis, count 1, are marked by the change of feet and bending of the skating knee. Some of these points coincide with the start of a new lobe and are also emphasized by the change of direction of rotation and lean. The points of minor emphasis (count 4) are marked by turns but are not otherwise emphasized.

Inventor - unknown
First Performance - unknown

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Hold	Step No.	Man's Step	Number of Beats of Music		Lady's Step
Closed	1	RFOSw3	3+3	6	LBO-SwR
	2	LBO-Sw R	6	3+3	RFOSw3
	3	RFO-SwR	6		LBO-SwR
	4	LFOSw3	3+3	6	RBO-SwR
	5	RBO-SwR	6	3+3	LFO Sw3
	6	LFO-SwR	6		RBO-SwR
	7	RFOSw3	3+3	6	LBO-SwR
	8	LBO-SwR	6	3+3	RFOSw3
	9	RFO-SwR	6		LBO-SwR
	10	LFOSw3	3+3	6	RBO-SwR
	11	RBO-SwR	6	3+3	LFOSw3
	12	LFO-SwR	6		RBO-SwR
	13	RFO-SwR	6		LBO-SwR
	14	LFOSw3	3+3	6	RBO-SwR
	15	RBO-SwR	6	3+3	LFOSw3
	16	LFO-SwR	6	6	RBO-SwR

