

Name of dance: Kaketke

Pronunciation: kah-KYET-keh

Place of origin: East European Jews, who borrowed it from 19th century Russian ballroom dancing, which probably borrowed it from French ballroom dancing, which may have imagined (since it is a polka) that it was Polish

Source of music: Folk Dancer MH 1060

Learned from: Dick Crum, 1991

About the dance: This dance is a late 19th century variant of the “*Heel and Toe Polka*”, or “*Polka Piquee*”, known in one form or another throughout Europe and America. Among East European Jews, this dance was called *kaketke* or *polka-kaketke*, and references to it can be found in Yiddish literature. The name derives from the dance’s Russian name *Polka Kuketka*, meaning “flirt polka”, a reference mainly to Measures 5-6 below, in which the man can catch the woman’s glance first from her L side, then from her R side.

Rhythm: 2/4

Formation: Couples face CCW around the circle, the men standing to the L and a bit behind their partners, women holding their hands palm forward a bit above their own shoulders. Men’s R hands clasp women’s R hands, L hands clasp L hands (Varsouvienne position). At the beginning of the dance, both partners have their L feet free.

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
⊥	1	Hop on R in place, touching L heels in front (ct. 1), hop again on R, lifting L heels up across in front of R lower leg (ct. 2).
	2	Man steps L, R, L in place (cts. 1 & 2), while woman uses these same steps to travel from the man’s R side to his L side without letting go of hands.
	3-4	Repeat Measures 1-2 with reverse footwork and direction but still facing the same way.
	5	Both partners step and lean forward on L, looking at each other over the woman’s L shoulder (ct. 1), both lift and then weight the L leg again (ct. 2).
	6	Both partners shift weight back onto R leg, looking at each other over the woman’s R shoulder (ct. 1), bob up and down again on R leg (ct. 2).
☼	7-8	Man steps LRL, RLR in place (cts. 1&2, 1&2), while letting go of woman’s L hand and twirling her CW under his R hand as she completes one full turn using the same footwork. At the end of the turn, return to Varsouvienne position.
	9-12	Repeat Measures 1-4.
→	13	Couple runs forward with light steps on L, R, L (cts. 1&2),

Kaketke (continued):

<u>Direction</u>	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Step</u>
		pause (ct. &).
	14	Continue running forward with light steps on R, L, L (cts. 1&2), pause (ct. &).
	15-16	Repeat Measures 13-14, coming down with light stamps on the last three steps of the last measure.

dance notes by Erik Bendix