

SUDMALIŅAS

A dance for 8 or 4 pairs

Written down by J. Rinka and J. OŠs. Published in 1934. Musical adaptation by Eduards Grīnvalds. Sudmaliņas is one- of the most popular dances in Latvia.

The dance is in 3 parts with 12 "moves". The time measure is 2/4. The dance is danced with the polka step. The dancers begin by standing in pairs in a square or rectangular group (image 1).

Part 1

Move 1 (beats I/16)

1. - 6. b. The dancers clasp hands and form a circle and with 6 polka steps dance in an anti-clockwise direction, sorting with die right leg.
7. - 8. b. The dancers stop, release hands and clap 3 times, facing the centre of the circle.
9. - 16. b. Repeat 1. 8. b. but in the opposite direction (clock-wise). At the end of die 16th beat, form a square group again (image 1).

Move 2 (beats II/16)

- 1.- 8. b. The first pairs dance the polka towards the centre and having danced round die opposite pair, dance back to their places (arrows in image 1)
9. 16. b. This is repeated by the second pairs.

Move 3 (beats III/16)

- 1.-6. b. On each corner pairs clasp right hands, forming a small "sudmaliņas" or mill and with 6 polka steps turn the mill in a clockwise direction. The girls hove their left hands on their hips and the boys, slightly raised above their heads (image 2).
- 7.- 8. b. The dancers stop and clap hands 3 times.
- 9.-16. b. Repeat 1.-8. b. but in the opposite direction (clasping left hands).

Move 4 (beats IV/16).

1. - 16. b. All pairs dance the round polka and return to their places.

Part II

Move 5 (I/16 beats)

1. - 16. b. Repeat move I (from part 1)

Move 6 (II/16 beats)

1. - 16. b. Repeat move 2 (pairs exchange positions and return to their original places).

Move 7 (III/16 beats)

1. - 6. b. The dancers form a medium mill (image 3). Each “sail” is formed by 2 pairs, linking each other loosely by the waist and shoulders.

The girls at the centre clasp right hands and the boys at the outer edges of the “sails” raise their hands slightly above their heads. With 6 polka steps the dancers turn the mill in a clockwise direction. (If there are only 4 pairs, each “sail” is formed by 1 pair).

7 - 8. b. The girls at the centre release hands and the “sails”, moving in a clockwise direction (interrupted arrows in image 3), turn so that the boys at the edges of the “sails” can clasp left hands at the centre. The girls at the edges of the “sails” have their right hands on their hips.

9.-16. b. Repeat moves I. - 8. b. turning the mill in an anti-clockwise direction. At the end of beat 16 the dancers are back in their places.

Move 8 (I/16 beats)

1. -16. b. Repeat move 4 (round polka in pairs)

Part III

Move 9 (1/16 beats)

I. -16. b. Repeat move 1 (circle).

Move 10 (II/16 beat)

I. -16. b. Repeat move 2 (pairs dance past each other and exchange positions and then return to their original places).

Move 11 (III/16 beat)

1.- 7. b. The dancers form a large mill. At the centre, the girls clasp right hands and turn the mill in a clockwise direction. The boys have their hands raised slightly above their heads. The rest of the dancers who are forming the “sails” hold hands loosely in a normal position.

8.b. The dancers release hands and on “two” clap hands and each dancer turns sharply to the right.

9.- 16. b. Repeat moves 1.- 8 but this time in the opposite direction (anti-clockwise), in the centre the girls clasp left hands. On the 16th beat the dancers, turning their faces to the exterior, dance towards their places.

Move 12 (IV/16 beat)

1. -16. b. Repeat move 4 (round polka in pairs).