

# EARLY LINDY HOP

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

This is the earliest Lindy, filmed in 1929, within a year of being named Lindy Hop by "Shorty" George Snowden (pictured here). Snowden and his fellow Savoy Ballroom dancers performed many variations for the sound film *After Seben*, to music played by Chick Webb's Savoy Ballroom orchestra.



Music: 1920s classic jazz, approximately 100 bpm.

**Basic Early Lindy Step** Counts 1-2: Lead steps side L. Ct 3: cross R closely behind L, rocking back on it. Count 4: Return weight to L foot in place. S-QQ timing. Repeat to the other side, beginning side R. Follow begins with side R. This may slightly turn in place clockwise or CCW. Couple #1 in the film began this with the rock step on count 1, making it a QQ-S timing.

**Turning Basic:** Turn as a couple a full rotation clockwise. On count 1, the Follow steps straight forward R, between Lead's feet, in Closed Position. She no longer rocks behind on counts 3-4, but does two quick running steps traveling around him, side L and slightly crossing R over L. Her 2nd bar is the Basic above, with the rock step.

**Push-Pull** On counts 7-8 (rock step), push back away from partner keeping Closed Position.

**Sidekick** Same as the Push-Pull, but the Lead kicks his L foot out to the left side on count 7 instead of doing the rock step.

**Swing-Out** On count 5, the Lead releases the Follow with his R arm, keeping his L (her R) hand. She falls back to single-hand hold as both do their rock-step on cts 7-8. Pull back into closed position on ct. 1.

**Heel Rock** He lets go of her with his R arm, keeping held hands, as they jump back onto both feet, apart, on 5, rock back onto their heels, lifting toes, on 7, in swing-out position. He may throw his R wrist up.

**Split Kicks** Keeping closed position, he stops with feet apart on 5; she kicks R fwd. between his feet on 7.

**Scissors** On count 5, he twists sharply to his left, opening her away to the right, crossing his R over his left, weight on both feet evenly. He slides or jumps into second position (feet apart) on count 4, with weight mostly on his R.

**Shoulder Slide** The Lead turns solo 3/4 to his left as the Follow goes around his back clockwise. Return to closed position for the rock step. As he leads her around himself, his L hand brings her R hand to his R shoulder before letting go, and she trails her right hand across his upper back, at shoulder level.

Not all Lindy variations were filmed, so they may likely have also done a **Waist Slide** at the time, which is the same figure holding swingout hands lower, with the Follow sliding her R hand at his waist level.

**Charleston Kicks** The Lead steps L slightly forward on 1, as the Follow steps slightly back R. On count 3, he swings his R leg forward to the right side as she swings her L leg back. This replaces the rock step. On count 7, he kicks his L back as she swings her R forward. This may slightly turn in place CCW.

**Six-Count** Holding his partner closely, the Lead sways forward onto his L on counts 1-2, back R on counts 3-4, does a rock step L behind his R on count "&" just before 5, then steps in place R on counts 5-6.