

No Classes? Shift To Video

by Harold & Meredith Sears



We can't go to our usual dance clubs and classes these days, but I'm keeping my hand in (or is it my foot?) with videos from YouTube and from other collections around the Web. I'll list some links below, but a simple search on the name of a rhythm, or of a specific dance figure, will turn up sites and additional links galore. Start with "waltz," "waltz telemark," "waltz styling," or "waltz four walls," and follow the links. You can easily spend a full evening and almost feel like you've been to a lesson and dance.

One category of video presents showcase dances. We get to see the whole dance, from beginning to end, without any comment. The ballroom dancers will dance without cues. Round dancers will usually have the recorded cues. Either way, we can enjoy the big picture, the posture, the dance frame, body lines, and smooth body flow (and the music). More specifically, we can recognize some of the figures being danced. Watching figures that we know might reveal some features or details that we'd like to copy, improvements that we can make. Watching figures that we don't know can get us started toward knowing them. We often work on those sorts of details in the kitchen, our first steps toward smoother dancing.

The other big category of video presents dance instruction. Here, the teachers are not presenting a dance; they are discussing and demonstrating specific steps, figures, and techniques used in dance. These lessons won't be as pretty as a showcase, but the teachers will tell us plainly what they're trying to get across -- more details to work on in the kitchen.

So, check these out, find more during your own exploration, and keep up your dancing -- at least in your head.

Waltz Oversway (phase IV)	https://youtu.be/l0mMoGZ5cTA
Waltz Contra Check (phase V)	https://youtu.be/b8A5coO6yvY
Waltz Big Top (phase VI)	https://youtu.be/zJl-Y36xa-o
Showcase waltz, foxtrot, & quickstep (wow!)	https://youtu.be/kfbwEZ917yU
Beginning samba	https://youtu.be/iukTZE3iyE0
Beginning tango	https://youtu.be/j9x3FhsVHkg
Beginning paso doble	https://youtu.be/nDFihjVBSYs
Round Dance Demos	https://youtu.be/cCLh82Bk-DQ
Glen & Helen Arceneaux have a big library of videos for download. You'll need a password, but they welcome all dancers.	http://glenhelendance.com/
Jacquie Hayes collection	http://www.we-dance.info/dances/
Gene Severance collection	https://videosrounddancing.shutterstock.com/
David Sanford collection (no password)	http://dancerounds.info/pages/videos.htm