

# Double Reverse, Double Natural, and Double Reverse Wing

This week, rather than a new dance, let's puzzle over three related figures, the Double Reverse Spin (phase V), the Double Natural Spin (phase VI), and the Double Reverse Wing (not a standard figure but common enough). These figures are similar in fundamental ways, and seeing the similarities will help us remember the figures and perform them smoothly.

In the Double Reverse, the man steps forward L beginning to turn LF and then side R spinning sharply. The standard amount of turn is  $7/8$  LF, and we begin and end in CP. The lady has four weight changes to the man's two. She steps back R turning, dances a Heel Turn closing L to R, side and back R continuing to turn, and then crosses left in front of right for her fourth weight change. The timing of her steps can vary, but a popular choice is SQQ& in foxtrot, where she takes her third, side step on beat 4 and, turning, draws her left in front and delays taking weight until the last moment in the measure. In waltz the timing might similarly be 123&.

Shall we look at one of our ballroom coaches dancing the Double Reverse? Go to <https://youtu.be/I5LG9NX5jyM>. Egils presents a sequence of figures with some ballroom features that differ from what we see in round dancing. Right off the bat we see a Change of Direction that includes an unnamed Maneuver. But the Reverse Fallaway Slip to Double Reverse is completely recognizable. We get a nice clear view of the steps described above.

You might expect the Double Natural to be a mirror image of the Double Reverse, simply beginning with the trail foot, and the first two steps are a close mirror, but the lady's steps 3 and 4 are quite different than those in the Double Reverse. The man begins with a forward R beginning to turn RF and then steps side L spinning. The lady steps back L and dances a Heel Turn closing R to L. In the Double Reverse, she then stepped side and crossed in front to end in CP. Here, she steps side and forward L and then forward R to end in BJO. We can think of the lady's third and fourth steps as "run, run" to BJO, a much more active end to the figure than in the Double Reverse. Again, here is Egils and partner dancing the figure: <https://youtu.be/wZYsirowY-c>.

So, these two figures are not the same; they don't mirror each other -- the lady's steps are different, and our ending position is different, too.

Let's look at the Double Reverse Wing and see how it fits in with the other two figures. As in a Double Reverse, the man steps forward L turning and then side R spinning LF. The lady steps back R, does her Heel Turn, and steps side and forward R, and forward L to SCAR. Sound familiar? As in the Double Natural, the lady ends the Double Reverse Wing with a "run, run" to outside partner (BJO in the Dbl Nat & SCAR in the Dbl Rev Wing). Here we do have two figures that mirror each other.

Another way to think about these figures is to see that we take two steps to accomplish the spin, and then the lady dances the second and third steps of a Wing to outside-partner position. Normally, when we think of a Wing we



only think about SCAR position. That is the standard figure. But a bird has two wings, not just one. If one wing has the lady running to SCAR, then the other wing is simply a run to BJO. We can indeed think of the Double Natural as really a Double Natural Wing.

The question that remains: Could there be a Double Natural Spin that ends in CP, that does mirror the Double Reverse, that ends with the lady stepping side and crossing in front? I've never seen such a thing, and I don't have the floor right now to try such a spin. We must realize that our closed dance position is not symmetrical, with the lady directly in front of the man, ready to make identical movements either left or right. She is on his right side -- left and right turns are therefore basically different. This alone might explain why the Double Reverse and Double Natural do not mirror each other.

If you'd like to look at the Double Reverse Wing, I do have a video of Dave Dent and Pam Hurd dancing Beautiful Things (Lamberty VI FT 2013). The figure is at the end of Part A. We also have a full teach of this dance with a couple minutes on the Double Reverse Wing starting about 6'30".