

BITTE MAND I KNIBE (LITTLE MAN IN A FIX)
(Denmark)

Bitte Mand I Knibe (Bit-eh man ee k-nee-beh), Little Man in a Fix, is a folk dance for two cpls from Randersegnen. An ever-popular folk dance for young and old alike, both throughout the United States and its native land, this is one of Denmark's many contributions to good dance humor. The amusing name comes from the situation which arises when there are an uneven number of cpls on the floor. During the first figure one cpl will thereby be deprived of another pair with whom to dance, thus finding themselves in a "knibe" or predicament. For the chorus they waltz as the others do, but as soon as the first figure begins anew the M is careful to see that he finds the other half of his set, so as to avoid being the "little man in a fix";

Source: Described in "Folkedanse" Vol I, Copenhagen 1956.

Record: Aqua Viking V400B

Formation: Two cpls in each set. Open shoulder-waist; open single hand; closed Danish waltz. Footwork is opp throughout.

Steps: Running steps, Danish Tyrolervals

Styling: Light and humorous.

Measures Pattern
(6/8) (3/4)

I. Two Couples Around

- 1 - 8 Two M hook L arms, each M with own ptr in firm open shoulder-waist pos on own R, W L hand on ptrs L shoulder, and the two cpls run around CCW with small running steps in time to music. (The faster the W are swung around, the more they must lean bwd.)
- 1 - 8 Continuing with small running steps, and without ceasing the CCW movement of the set, M loosen elbow hold and join L hands, each swinging own W out in front of him, holding her L hand with his R, and raising joined L hands to form an arch, through which the W run, thereby exchanging places, upon which each W turns to own L (CCW) and joins R hands with other W; all 8 hands are thereby in the ctr as the "hub" of a star or wheel.

II. Tyrolervals--Chorus With Partner

- 9 - 12 Danish Tyrolervals (Tyrolean waltz) danced twice through, thus: Cpl takes open pos with inside hands joined at shoulder height, and beg on outside ft, dances 4 open waltz steps fwd in LOD (first slightly back-to-back with arms fwd, then slightly face-to-face with arms back, etc.)
- 13 - 16 Cpl takes closed Danish waltz pos (similar to regular or ballroom pos except that arms are kept shoulder height with M L and W R elbows nearly straight), and dances 4 meas CW turning waltz, progressing fwd in LOD.
- 9 - 16 Repeat the action of meas 9-16 (Fig II).
Repeat entire dance from beg, each cpl finding another (preferably new) cpl with whom to beg.

Presented by: Gordon E. Tracie