

BOURRÉES CROISÉES

(France)

Bourrées Croisées (Boor-RAY Krwah-zay) comes from the region of Berry. Louise and Germain Hébert introduced it at the 1965 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

Bourrees are the "real" French dances, and although their origin is unknown, they are widely spread throughout French territory. This one shows the favorite way to do bourrée - in a "quadrette", doing variations on the "avant-deux".

This dance is actually 3 separate dances which are often danced "in medley". The croisements is common to all three.

MUSIC: Record: BAM 266 - Side A, band 4.

FORMATION: 2 cpls form a "quadrette" as they face each other. M has ptr to his R. M face opp M, W face W. Hands fall naturally at sides; W may hold skirt or edge of apron, but do not swish skirt.

STEPS AND STYLING: In Berry, bourrées are danced in a very sober manner, with the M carrying most of the typical styling in their knee action. In the long step fwd, M lead with the heel, then take full body wt onto the whole ft. Most of movement is on ct 1 of each measure. M knees are kept apart (turned out) and never fully straightened throughout the dance. In the typical step of 4 meas, the accent (further bend of knees) is on ct 1 of each meas, particularly in meas 2 and 4. W are strictly forbidden to copy M styling, and they dance in a very delicate way. Ftwork is identical for M and W. W begin steps 2 meas later than M.

Bourrée Step (1 meas) - Pas de Bourrée (Pah deh boor-RAY)

Step on L, bend knees outward (ct 1); step on R near L, begin to straighten knees slightly (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3). Next bourree step begin R. The step can be done moving fwd or bkwd, to R or L, or turning.

MUSIC 3/8

PATTERN

Measures

NO INTRODUCTION

A I. STRAIGHT FORWARD MOVE - Bourrée Croisée d'Oulches (Doolsh)

- 1-2 All join hands at shoulder height. M begin L, dance 1 bourrée step fwd to end with R hips adjacent. M begin R, dance 1 bourrée step in place.
W wait in place, no action.
- 3-4 M dance back to original place with 1 bourrée step and dance 1 in place, cross L over R on ct 2.
W perform action of meas 1-2 (Fig I), as described for M.
- 5-16 M repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig I) (fwd and back) 3 more times (4 in all).

W continue steps as described for M and finish last 2 steps on next phrase of music. All release hands.

B II. CROSSING OVER - Croisements (Crawz-mahn)

1-2 M begin with L shoulders twd each other, begin L and take 1 long step fwd, at the same time turn 1/2 L (CCW) to end with R shoulders adjacent (ct 1). Finish bourrée step in place. Begin R and move slightly sdwd R with 1 bourrée step to finish just past face to face pos.

3-4 M begin L and dance to opp pos with 1 bourrée step as follows: Step L across R and make 3/4 R (CW) turn (ct 1), and then finish bourrée step. M are now facing each other and dance away from each other with 1 bourrée step as follows: Step diag bkwd R on R, begin 1/4 turn CW (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3). M now have L shoulders twd each other.

W perform action of meas 1-2 (Fig II), as described for M.

5-8 M return to original place with action of meas 1-4 (Fig II). W continue to follow.

9-16 M repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II). W continue to follow and finish last 2 steps on next phrase of music.

A III. SHOULDER TO SHOULDER - Bourrée Croissée Simple (SAM-plah)

1-2 M begin L and dance 1 long step fwd, at the same time turning 1/2 CCW to bring R shoulders twd each other (ct 1). Finish bourrée step but do not dip shoulder. M dance additional bourrée step in place.

3-4 M begin L and dance slightly bkwd, turning 1/4 CW to face each other. Finish bourrée step and dance 1 additional bourrée step as follows: Step diag bkwd R on R, begin 1/4 turn CW (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3). M now have L shoulders twd each other.

W perform action of meas 1-2 (Fig III), as described for M.

5-16 M repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III) 3 times (4 times in all). W continue to follow and finish last 2 steps on next phrase of music.

B IV. CROSSING OVER - Croisements (Crawz-mahn)

1-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-16.

A V. VARIATION - Bourrée Croissée d'Aubigny (DOUGH-bee-knee)

1-2 M begin L and dance 1 bourrée step fwd with long first step.

On meas 2 M jump on both ft and land with feet flat on floor and knees bent. Raise fists sharply, thumbs pointing upward, elbows bent, forearms parallel to floor (ct 1). Ct 1 is heavily accented and the balance of the measure is danced largely "in the shoes" (cts 2-3).

3-4 M begin L and dance bkwd to place with 2 bourrée steps, cross L over R on meas 4, ct 2.

W perform action of Fig III, meas 1-2, as described for M.

5-6 M repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig V).

W return to place with 2 bourrée steps as follows: Step L and turn 3/4 CCW (ct 1); finish bourrée step in place. Begin 1/4 turn CW, step diag bkwd R on R (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).

7-8 Repeat action of meas 3-4 (Fig V).

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V).
W continue to follow and finish last 2 steps on next phrase of music. W step is termed "the hairpin."

B VI. CROSSING OVER - Croisements (Crawz-mahn)

1-16 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-16.
W continue to follow and finish last 2 steps to music at end of dance.

At end of dance, if proper music is played (record is correct) M may kiss ptr on each cheek. This is "la Bise," optional but very authentic.