

LA CHAPELOTTE

(Berry, France)

This dance from Berry was originally done by three men in the Sancerre tradition, but is now done also with one man and two women.

MUSIC: Laguna Festival Tape: "La Chapelotte"

FORMATION: Three dancers in a line: 3 men or 1 man and 2 women. The dancer in the middle goes alternately towards the other two dancers.

STYLE: The basic styling is very flat, with steps taken on the full ft. Knees are slightly bent throughout. Arms are relaxed at sides. There is a "gliding" quality to the movements, with a slight downward accent on ct 1 of the Décalage step. Footwork is the same for both men and women.

STEPS: Avance-Recule:
Meas 1: Step fwd on L (ct 1); step R beside L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3)
Meas 2: Décalage back: Step on R ft in place, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach back with L ft (ct 1); step back on L ft (ct 2); step on R ft next to L (ct 3).
Meas 3: Step back on L ft (ct 1); step on R ft next to L (ct 2); step on L ft in place (ct 3).
Meas 4: Décalage fwd: Step on R ft next to L, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach fwd with L ft (ct 1); step fwd on L ft (ct 2); step on R ft next to L (ct 3)

Hair-Pin Turn (Épingle à Cheveux):

Meas. 1: Beginning with L shldr facing opp dancer, step on L ft sdwd L, turning 1/2 turn CCW (ct 1); step on R ft next to L (ct 2); step on L ft in place (ct 3).

Meas 2: Décalage step: step on R ft next to L, bending R knee more than usual and starting to reach to L side with L ft (ct 1); step sdwd L on L ft (ct 2); step on R ft next to L (ct 3).

Meas 3: Repeat meas 1

Meas 4: Repeat meas 2

Resting Step:

Meas 1: Dancing in place, step L,R,L

Meas 2: Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk

Meas 3-4: Repeat meas 1-2

METER: 3/4

PATTERN

Meas

The following description is for one man and two women. The man faces woman #1. His back is to woman #2.

PART A - AVANCE-RECULE & HAIR-PIN TURN

1-16 Woman #1 dances 4 Avance-Recule steps. Note: on meas 1-2, woman #1 dances Resting Step for 2 meas, then begins Avance-Recule step fwd on meas. 3 (cts 1-2 of Avance-Recule step). On meas 15-16, woman #1 dances Resting Step in place for 2 meas.

Woman #2 dances 4 Hair-Pin Turn steps.

Man dances 4 Hair-Pin Turn steps, looking alternately at woman #1 (meas 1-2) and woman #2 (meas 3-4).

Note: On meas 15-16, man does 3/4 turn CCW, stepping LRL, RLR, to end up facing woman #1.

PART B - FIGURE 8 TURNS

1-4 Man and woman #1 join R hands, arms bent up in "W" pos and they turn CW for 4 meas beginning with L ft. Woman ends up in original position; man ends facing woman #2.

5-8 Man and woman #2 join L hands, arms bent up in "W" pos and they turn CCW for 4 meas beginning with L ft. Woman ends up in original position; man ends facing woman #1.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Part B.

Note: The man is describing a figure 8 pattern on the floor as he alternates turning with woman #1 and woman #2. During the 4 meas when each woman is not turning with the man, she dances the Resting Step in place. The man ends meas 16 facing woman #2 to begin the dance again.

Dance repeats from the beginning: this time the man dances the Hair-Pin Turn towards woman #2; woman #2 dances the Avance-Recule step beginning with cts 3-4 of Avance-Recule step (starting back on L ft); woman #1 dances the Hair-Pin Turn step. At Part B, the man begins the figure 8 turn with woman #2.

Note: The starting position of the dance alternates each time for the man: towards woman #1, then towards woman #2, etc. The first step of the dance alternates for the women each time: woman #1 starts with Avance-Recule: woman #2 starts with the Hair-Pin Turn. The second time the dance begins, woman #1 begins with the Hair-Pin Turn and woman #2 begins with Avance-Recule.