

LA LAVANDERA  
(Lah lah-vahn-der-ah)  
(The Washerwoman)

Folkraft 1407 A

Aviano, Venice

La Lavandera was a favorite dance done in different parts of Northern Italy. The man struts around the girl with the attitude of a young rooster and there is much room for flirtation.

FORMATION:

Couples in a circle around the room moving CC.

Fig. 1 Position - Man's R arm around girl's waist, his L hand on his hip, palm in, thumb forward, fingers backward. He dances bent slightly forward from the waist. Girl's R hand on man's L shoulder, her L hand holds her skirt, rather close to body. She has white handkerchief hanging from her waist at R side.

Music Action - Step, step, step - together, step.  
A & Man starts forward with L ft. girl back with her R ft. step  
repeat step, step-together step (8times) revolving C while the whole circle moves CC.

Fig. 2 Position - Man has hand on own hips, thumbs forward, he is slightly bent forward from the waist during slow steps and slightly bent back on the fast steps, Girl takes handkerchief from her waist, holds one end with L hand on her R thigh, and with her R hand, holding the other end, she makes scrubbing motions as if using her thigh as a washboard. Partners follow each other with their eyes.

Music Action - Washing clothes - strutting  
B & Man describes a quarter of a circle around the girl, first C  
repeat then CC; first with 3 jaunty steps R L R pause, L R L pause; then reversing direction and following music takes 8 tiny steps pause, then 8 more in same direction, his feet scraping the floor. Girl makes 3 washing-clothes motions on her thigh in time with music, pause, then 3 more; pause; then 8 fast rubs pause, 8 more, pause; following the boy with her eyes.

Ending Repeat whole dance as many times as desired, end with Fig. 1.