

Les P'tits Chars

(Quebec - Canada)

This is a typical dance done in various regions of Québec. "P'tits chars" means little cars and actually refers to "tram cars" (once much popular in cities like Montreal). This contra dance form was learned from Normand Legault of Quebec City.

Pronunciation: lay P'TEE SHAHR

Music: Yves Moreau cassette YM-UOP-97, Side B/4

2/4 meter

Formation: Six cpls in contra formation (longways). Lines face head (front) of hall. W on M's R. Outside hands on shldr of person in front, M's inside hand around W waist and W's inside hand on M's R shldr.

Meas

Pattern

PART I

CHORUS: "TRAM CAR"

16 Everybody in "train" position takes 8 steps fwd and 8 steps bkwd. Repeat.

FIGURE (varies each time through)

PROGRESSION: DIVE UNDER ARCH

8 All cpls except first one make an arch with partner, head cpl dives under and goes to end of set. Other move up.

Figure 1: W go down and up

8 Women follow lead lady and go in front of men down the set and back up the set on your side

Figure 2: M go down and up

8 Men follow head man and go in front of ladies down the set and back up the set on your side.

Figure 3: Both M and W go down and up

8 Both lines go down the set on your side (cast off) and come back up (at the same time).

SEQUENCE: Chorus, Fig 1, Progression; Chorus, Fig 2, Progression, Chorus, Fig 3, Progression. Repeat entire sequence, then proceed to Part II.

PART II

16 Repeat Chorus of Part I (Tram Car), end with 2 lines facing each other.

8 Two lines go fwd and back twice.

8 Do R and L elbow turns with partner.

8 Two lines go fwd and back twice.

8 Do "dos-à-dos" R & L shldr with partner.

8 Two lines go fwd and back twice.

8 Swing partner (Quebec style: flat, smooth buzz steps with inside of R ft adjacent).

Presented by Yves and France Moreau