

La Salamandre

(France)

La Salamandre (lah sah-lah-MAHNDR) is a couple dance from Alsace. The name probably derived from "Alamander" or "Alaman." Germain Hébert learned the dance from Solange Denni at the Heritage '88 International Festival, Cornwall, Canada. Germain presented the dance at the 1992 North-South Teacher's Seminar and again at the 1993 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTE: Hébert - Stockton '93 Side A/3; 2/4 meter
French Folk Dances, North-South Teacher's Seminar, 1992 Side A/1;
"Danses populaires d'Alsace" OMC 67067, Side A/5; Heritage '88 International.

FORMATION: Closed circle of couples, all facing center, W to R of M. Hands joined in V-pos.

STEPS: Walk* (1 step per ct), Chassé*, Stamp*.
Back Promenade Position*, Closed Ballroom Position*.
Footwork same for M and W except in Fig IV (Chassé).

* Described in *Steps and Styling*, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

MUSIC	2/4 meter	PATTERN
Measures		
4 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> All stamp R (with wt) on last ct.	
	I. <u>CIRCLE LEFT AND RIGHT.</u>	
A 1-7	Beg L, walk briskly 14 steps in RLOD (CW).	
8	Stepping on L, turn to face LOD (CCW)(ct 1); stamp on R (with wt) in LOD (ct 2).	
9-16	Beg L, walk briskly 16 steps in LOD. Stamp R (with wt) on the last step and release hands.	
	II. <u>MEN IN AND OUT; WOMEN WEAVE IN LOD.</u>	
B 1-2	<u>M:</u> Beg L, walk 4 steps twd ctr. On last ct turn body slightly L and fall onto R ft. <u>W:</u> Beg L, walk 4 steps LOD passing behind first (corner) man. W may hold skirts throughout weaving pattern.	
3-4	<u>M:</u> Beg L, walk bkwd 4 steps away from ctr. On last ct stamp R (with wt). <u>W:</u> Beg L, continue to walk 4 steps LOD passing in front of next (second) M.	
5-12	Repeat meas 1-4 twice.	
13-14	With 3 steps, W turn 3/4 R (CW) to step in beside sixth M on his R side. M dance 3 steps in place. Facing ctr, join hands in Back Promenade Pos.	

La Salamandre—continued

III. COUPLE TURN.

- A 1-4 Beg L, turn once CCW with 8 walking steps: M back up, W fwd.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 but turn CW: M fwd, W back up. End with M back to ctr and change to Closed Ballroom Pos.

IV. CHASSÉ.

- B 1-4 Beg M L, W R, 8 chassé steps in LOD.
5-6 With 3 walking steps, turn 1/2 CW. End with M facing ctr and M L, W R ft free.
7-10 Repeat meas 1-4 but chassé in RLOD.
11-12 With 3 walking steps, W turn 1/2 CW to stand to R of M. M dance 3 steps in place. End in single closed circle of cpls facing ctr, hands in V-pos and L ft free.

DANCE SEQUENCE: Dance pattern as written: 4 times using the Stockton '93 cassette and only twice when using the North-South '92 cassette.