

ALTER TIROLER PLATTLER (Old Tyrolean Slapdance)

This dance is an old and authentic form of the innumerable slapdances so frequently danced in western Austria and southern Bavaria, which have practically achieved world renown. Even though this particular form is simple, it demands, as do all related forms of the slapdance, precise co-ordination of the participants. It is a dance for "teams" and not one in which everyone can immediately participate.

Starting position: Couples assume normal waltz position and form a dance circle.

Figure 1. "Waltz" - 16 measures: Ordinary waltz in counterclockwise direction. The dance circle and the distance between couples should be rigidly maintained.

Figure 2. "Trestern" (Stamping) - 16 measures: The man raises, with his left hand, the right hand of his partner, slightly above her head; and the woman, using the man's motionless left hand as an axis, revolves in a clockwise direction. She completes a half turn on every measure with three steps, keeping her body erect and steady like a spinning top. The man simultaneously circles around his partner in a counterclockwise direction, stamping his feet, while lifting them hardly from the ground. Each of the short and heavy stamping steps has the value of one eighth, the last one of each measure being accented and actually having the value of two eighths. Measure 1: L.R.L.R.L.

Measure 2: R.L.R.L.R., etc.

He circles his partner approximately twice, releases her on the 13th measure, and, stamping, moves towards the center, forming an inner circle with the other men. He ends the stamping on the 16th measure, with a single stamp of the right foot, on the first quarter of the measure, and raises both his hands slightly above shoulder level with the palms facing forward and in this way prepares for the exact beginning of the coming slapdance.

The women, as soon as the position is broken, walk counterclockwise around the circle of men, using an ordinary walking step (one to each measure):

Figure 3. "Plattler" (Slapping) - 16 measures: The women keep walking around the circle of men, maintaining equal distances. At the end of the "Plattler", each girl should be standing directly behind her partner. The men "slap" (platteln). It is essential to be aware of the following points:

1. The torso remains straight and erect.
2. The hands don't slap against the feet, but rather the feet slap against the hands.
3. The jumps are so lightly executed that the torso remains practically motionless. The foot carrying the weight hardly leaves the ground.

Measure 1: On every quarter of a measure, execute a slight jump on the left leg. Slap as indicated below:

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(Last Night I Dreamed We Were In Dayton)

(Miami Valley Folk Dancers, David Rosenberg, Nancy Kane, Oct 26-27, 1957)

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Alter Tiroler Plattler (cont.)

- 1st eighth: Right hand slaps right thigh.
- 2nd eighth: Left hand slaps left thigh.
- 3rd eighth: Same as 1st eighth.
- 4th eighth: Same as 2nd eighth.
- 5th eighth: Right leg is raised forward, bent at the knee, with the lower part of the leg turned to the left side. Right hand is slapped by the inner side of the right shoe.
- 6th eighth: Same as 2nd eighth.

Measure 2: On every quarter of a measure, execute a slight jump on the right leg. Slap as indicated below:

- 1st eighth: Right hand slaps right thigh.
- 2nd eighth: Left hand slaps left thigh.
- 3rd eighth: Same as 1st eighth.
- 4th eighth: Same as 2nd eighth.
- 5th eighth: Left leg is raised forward, bent at the knee with the lower leg turned to the right side. The right hand is slapped by the sole of the left shoe.

Measure 3: Same as measure 1.

Measure 4: On every quarter of a measure, execute a slight jump on the right leg. Slap as indicated below:

- 1st eighth: Right hand slaps right thigh.
- 2nd eighth: Left hand slaps left thigh.
- 3rd eighth: Same as 1st eighth.
- 4th eighth: Same as 2nd eighth.
- 5th eighth: Lower part of the left leg is raised backwards and to the right side, so that the sole of the shoe faces upwards. Right hand hits backwards to be slapped by the sole of the left shoe.

Measures 5 to 7: Same as 1st to 3rd measures.

Measure 8: On the 1st eighth, execute a closing hard jump with both feet. On the 5th eighth the hands are raised to the position they had assumed immediately before the slapping began.

Measures 9 to 16: Same as 1st to 8th measures.

Figure 1 (waltz) follows, then the dance begins all over again. After having repeated the dance once or twice, it is ended with the waltz.