

AVANT-DEUX DU POITOU

(Poitou - France)

After the Bourrée, the Avant-Deux is a very widespread form of dance in several districts of Central and Western France. It is always done in contra line formation and the figures are prompted by a caller. In this recording, there is a small pause between repeats of the dance where the caller dedicates the next round to particular people: bride, mother-in-law etc.)

Pronunciation: Ah-vahn Duh doo pwah-too
Music: Yves Moreau workshop CD
Rhythm: 2/4
Formation: Two fairly long lines of cpls in "contra" formation (longways). Cpl facing cpl. The "opposite" is the person across from you. W on M's R. Arms are free down at sides.
Basic step: Step onto R, then L, then R, in a fwd direction (cts 1,2,3). hold (ct 4) strong step on L (ct 1) hop on L, extending R leg fwd (ct 3). This step is done in a fwd and a bkwd direction.
Buzz step: This is very much like a "swing your ptr" step)
Slide: This is like a "chassé" or "gallop" step in ballroom pos. which travels fwd and back.

Measure	Pattern
1. Avant-deux (basic step)	
1-4	Do one basic step fwd to opposite and one basic step back to place
5-8	Repeat pattern of meas 1-4
9-10	Do one basic step fwd trading places (but staying close) with opposite person moving CW (passing R shldr)
11-12	Do one basic step moving back (on opposite's side)
13-16	Repeat pattern of meas 9-12, ending up in original place
2. Balancez (swing)	
3 cts	When caller says "balancez", all stamp 3 times (L-R-L)
1-8	Do 16 buzz-swings with prtnr in ballroom pos.
3. Rassemblez (present-slide)	
3 cts	Same as in Fig. 2 but use R-L-R
1-2	Slide to opp cpl
3-4	Slide back to place
5-6	Repeat pattern of meas 1-2
7-8	Instead of sliding back to place, keep going fwd, passing through and ending up trading places with opp cpl.
* Note:	Listen for new "toast" by caller and begin dance after "...en Avant-Deux"