

Kontraintzak

(France)

A four-part quadrille from the province of Soule, Basque Country. Basque dances are known for their intricate steps. The present version retains many patterns familiar to contradancing as well as typical steps, most of them performed by men. Learned from the Basque Folk Group, Andra Mari, from Biskaia, Heritage 95 International, Cornwall, Ontario, July 1995.

Pronunciation:

CD: Echos de l'Hexagone, Band 6 2/4 meter

Formation: Cpl facing cpl (4-5 feet) in longways formation, in closed social pos. W on M's R.
 Head (W's line) WM WM WM WM WM
 of
 Hall (M's line) MW MW MW MW MW

Steps: A controlled buzz step, 4 steps for each turn, is used throughout the dance. It opens and closes each part.

Meas Pattern

PART I

Chord Introduction, no action

Swing and W turn

A 1-6 All swing CW using 12 buzz steps.
 7-8 M stand as they turn W CCW under the joined hands (L for: M; R for W).

Fwd and back & change place

B 1-2 All drop hands. Starting on R, 3 steps twd opp cpl (R-L-R). Point L ft fwd on ct 4.
 3-4 Reverse meas 1-2, backing to original pos (L-R-L). Point R ft close to L, no wt.
 5-6 Change place with opp cpl, circling L or RLOD, using 4 steps.
 7 Complete the half turn: leap onto R (ct 1), pivoting 1/4 turn CW, leap sdwd onto L (ct &);
 step bkwd on R ft as L ft is pointed across R (ct 2); leap on L as R is pointed across L (ct &).
 8 Step sdwd R on R (1) Close L to R.
 B 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, circling RLOD, bringing cpls into original pos.

W change place and swing

A 1-2 M stand as W clap their hands and change place diag with opp W using 4 skip steps. As they cross, they join R hands briefly.
 3-6 Swing the opp ptr 8 buzz steps (2 full turns).
 7-8 M stand as they turn W CCW under the joined hands.
 A 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, bringing W with original ptr.

Repeat the whole part I except for the opening swing.

Kontraintzak—continued

PART II

Chord Introduction, no action.

Swing and W turn

C 1-8 Repeat meas 1-8, part I.

Polka turn

D 1-8 All cpls on M's line turn CW with 8 two-steps (1 full turn). Other cpls stand.

D 9-16 All cpls on W's line repeat the last 8 meas. Other cpls stand

M step # 1

W stand as M move diag twd the opp M.

C 1 Two steps fwd R, L.

2 Hop on L as R ft is brought across L shin (ct 1); hop on L ft as R ft is extended fwd (ct &); bounce on both ft (ct 2).

3 Turn L (CCW) twd original place stepping L, R, L (cts 1,&,2).

4 Leap sdwd onto R, pointing L ft across R ft (ct 1); leap sdwd onto L, pointing R ft across L ft (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

C 9-16 Repeat Part I, meas 1-8.

Repeat Part II, Polka turn, M step # 1, Swing and W turn.

PART III

Chord Introduction, no action.

Swing and W turn

E 1-8 Repeat Part I, meas 1-8.

Fwd & Back, R hand star, W turn)

F 1-2 Ptrs join R hands (head level). All starting on R, 3 steps fwd twd opp cpl. Point L ft f\vd.

3-4 Walk away from each other 3 steps (L, R, L). Point R ft close to L

5-6 Hands are lowered to form a R hand star. Change place with opp cpl circling RLOD using 4 walking steps.

7-8 M stand as they turn W CCW under the joined R hands.

F 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 bringing cpls into original pos.

Chasse step and M lift W

E 1 Join hands in closed social pos. Starting on outside ft (L for M, R for W), 2 chasse steps twd opp cpl.

2 M lift W and turn them 1/4 turn CW, helping them to land softly.

3-6 All swing 2 full turns.

7-8 M stand and turn W CCW under the joined hands.

E 9-16 Repeat the meas 1-8. On the chasse step, cpls change places, W passing back-to-back. Larger steps are then required.

Repeat Part III (except opening swing) from the opp cpl's place.

Kontraintzak—continued

PART IV

Chord Introduction, no action.

Swing and W turn

G 1-8 Repeat Part I, meas 1-8.

Two-step around the corner

H 1-8 Drop hands and face CCW or LOD. Change place with opp cpl using 7 small two-step and a step-close. Mark every corner with a sharp 90-degree turn.

H 9-16 Reverse meas 1-8 starting on L ft and moving in RLOD back to original pos.

M step # 2 and swing

W stand as M move diag fwd twd opp M.

G 1 Starting on R, 1 two-step fwd (R, L, R).

2 Leap onto L pointing R ft behind (ct 1); leap onto R pointing L ft behind R ft (ct 2).

3 Starting on L, back away with one two-step (L, R, L).

4 Leap onto R pointing L ft in front of R ft (ct 1); leap onto L pointing R ft in front of L ft (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

G 9-16 Repeat Part I, meas 1-8 (Swing and W turn).

Repeat part IV, except the opening swing.

Note: Alternate M step # 2

On the second repetition of M step # 2, meas 4, M can substitute:

Jump on both ft crossing R ft, toes down, in front of L ft (ct 1); jump on both ft crossing L ft, toes down, in front of R ft (ct 2).

Meas 5 will start on L ft.

Presented by Germain Hebert.