

La Dernière dance

Alsace

This dance is a branle. I learned it from members of Le P'tit Blanc when they toured Colorado in the 1980's.

Music: Le P'tit Blanc cassette, side 1 number 7.

Formation: Circle with low handhold when possible

Progression: The dance progresses CW around the dance space

Character: Whole footed, with flexion in the knees, softening the movements. During the second dance sequence there is a definite down, up 'svikt'¹ movement

First Dance Sequence²

Counts	1	2	1	2	1	2
Steps	L	R	L	close R to L, no weight	R	close L to R, no weight
dancer cts.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Second Dance Sequence

Make one CCW turn (to one's L) making a small circle, with the following steps

Counts	1	2	1	2	1	2
Steps	L, bend	R, up	L, bend	R, up	L, bend	R, up
dancer cts.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Part of ft	Whole	Ball	Whole	Ball	Whole	Ball
Svikt	Down	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up

Third Dance Sequence (the same as the first)

Counts	1	2	1	2	1	2
Steps	L	R	L	close R to L, no weight	R	close L to R, no weight
dancer cts.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Fourth Dance Sequence: slow steps

Counts	1	2	1	2
Steps	L		R	
dancer cts.	1	2	3	4

The dance repeats.

¹ Svikt is a Norwegian word that is used to describe the characteristic and perhaps stylized down up movements of a dance.

² Dancers may notice that the first dance sequence is the symmetrical opposite of the basic lesnoto step.