

BANDLTANZ (Ribbon Dance)
(Austria and Bavaria)

- Source:** Raimund Zoder: Oesterreichische Volkstaenze
 Karl Horak: Tiroler Volkstaenze
- Music:** Record: Tanz EP 58117
- Formation:** Four or more cpls around the pole.
- Steps:** Running waltz step.
- Comment:** The Bandltanz is a dance around a tree decorated with long ribbons, and by weaving these ribbons the dancers create many patterns. Some of the more popular figures are described below. The pole must be about 12 ft high and must be solid. (The more dancers, the higher the pole must be). The pole may have a wreath or a crown of flowers at the top. Right below the top, the ribbons (about 3 inches wide) must be fastened, alternating red and white: the white ones for the ladies, the red ones for the men. The dance originated in the Salzburg region, hence the red and white. In Styria, green and white are used; in Bavaria, blue and white to correspond with the national colours. The ribbons when hanging down must almost reach the bottom and must have a ring at the end which the dancers hold when weaving the patterns. The pole should have a base and should be held by strong boys or should be anchored firmly in the ground. The record has 4 meas of introduction and has 256 meas for dancing. Therefore, patterns have to be worked out to fit this recording. The ribbons must always be held firmly and evenly so that there is at no time a slack.

SUGGESTED FIGURES

- I. The dance usually begins and ends with the dancers joining hands shoulder height in a big circle around the pole and circle to L and to R (8 or 16 meas each).
- II. Other suggested figures before using the ribbons are a Grand Right and Left or a Grand Right and Left with elbows hooked once around each ptr, or R and L hand stars for the boys or the girls or both together.
- III. The boys go to the ctr and get the ribbons and hand the white ones to their ptrs and keep the colored ones. Then facing each other, holding the ribbon firmly at the ring with one hand and supporting it higher up with the other hand, they start a chain: M facing CCW, the W CW, first passing L shoulders, then the next person R shoulders. This weaving continues until the pattern has been formed and the leader gives the sign for the unwinding, which is done by turning around and undoing the pattern. After the pattern has been completely unwound, all dancers let loose of the ribbons at the same time, join hands and encircle the pole L and R.

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BANDLTANZ (cont)

IV. Beginning and ending the same as III, but the weaving is done by hooking R elbows and once completely around each other, then L elbow with next person and changing ribbons to the other hand each time, and so on until leader gives sign to unwind.

V. Beginning and ending same as III. Dancers hold ribbons with only one hand, the one closest to the pole, and encircle each other face to face CW 3 times, then on to the next and do the same, and so on. It is important that each time dancers move further away from the pole.

It takes quite a bit of practice and a lot of patience to work out the patterns and have them come out evenly.

Presented by Walter Grothe

FOLK DANCE CAMP 1965