

Little Man In A Fix

(Denmark)

This simple folk dance is very popular and widely danced among the Danish people, its popularity stemming most likely from the game element introduced at the close of the dance before each repetition when an extra couple attempts to find a place in a set. During the second part of the dance, the extra couple participates in the waltz in which all couples move freely about the floor, endeavoring to join with a new couple at the close of the waltz for the repeat of the dance. At the beginning of the repeat, there is always one less enterprising and agile man who has failed to join with another couple and finds himself "in a fix" as his partner chides him and reproves him for his lack of initiative in this regard. Adult Danish dancers enjoy this pantomimic element of the dance as the woman expresses displeasure with her partner, and they participate wholeheartedly in the play. Sometimes the humiliation of the "little man in a fix" is further displayed to other dancers by forcing him to stand with his partner in the center of the room until they join in the waltz for another try.

The dance is a two-part form, the first part fast and spirited with the second part smooth and lyric in quality.

Formation: Any number of sets of two couples scattered informally about the room. The two couples face in opposite directions with M's L arms hooked at elbows, W stands to R of partner with his R arm around her waist, her L hand on his R shoulder, her free hand on her hip.

Part I

- A
1-8 Beginning R, all move fwd in a CCW circle with 24 running steps.
- B
1-2 Continuing to move in a CCW direction, dancers open out into a straight line position sliding their hands from original grasps to clasp hands with 6 running steps (the two M now have L hands joined and hold partner's L hands in their R).
- 3-4 From her position in a straight line, each W bends fwd and runs under the arch formed by the joined hands of the two M, passing very close to her partner and turning immediately after passing under the arch twd her partner to join R hands with opposite W, above joined hands of M WHILE the M continue to move CCW with 6 running steps.
- 5-8 With all hands thus joined, dancers continue to progress in a CCW direction leaning out and pulling strongly away from center of set with 12 running steps.

Part II

- 1-8 In close social dance position (M beginnin L, W R), couples turn CW, moving freely about the room with 16 waltz steps.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, Part II.

Variation for Part II

- A
1-4 Partners stand side by side, M on L of partner, inside hands joined, outside hands on hips, and, beginning on outside feet (M L, W R). all dance 4 waltz balance steps in place, turning alternately fwd and back.

B
5-8

In closed social dance position, beginning on outside feet (M L, W R), all dance 4 waltz steps, making two CW turns while progressing CCW in large circle.

9-16

Repeat A and B.

Repeat entire dance as many times as desired.

Note:

Skillful Danish dancers execute Part I of Little Man In A Fix with an interesting and exciting variation. By gaining a great deal of momentum on the running steps and bracing hooked arms strongly, the men swing the women completely off the floor so that they are carried in a lateral plane as the men revolve. The woman, in order to prevent being flung from her partner in this figure, places her L arm around his neck and hooks her L hand over his shoulder.

This variation may prove hazardous and should not be attempted by inexperienced dancers.