

LA BOULANGERE (The Baker's Wife)

French

Folkraft Record F 1091B a

La Boulangere is one of the very old French dances. Several much older versions exist. The Catalans also have a dance by the same name but while the French song has only two verses the Catalans have over a dozen.

Stand in a square formation (Four Couples). Join hands.

Skip to left 8 steps.

Reverse to right 8 skips.

During the next three measure interlude release hands, face partners girls slowly curtsy as boys bow. (See "Aupres De Ma Blonde" Curtsy.)

Couple No. 1 join right hands, should high, elbows slightly bent, and skip around each other with four skips. With left hand boy No. 1 takes the left hand of girls No. 4 (to his left), while girl No. 1 takes left hand of boy No. 2 (to her right), and skip around with new partners four skips. Immediately boy and girl No. 1 return to each other clasping right hands and skip around with four steps, while at the same time, the side couples, Nos. 2 and 4, join right hands with their own partners, and skip around in place. Then couple No. 1 dance with the couple across-No. 3, joining left hands, No. 1 boy with girl No. 3, No 1 girl with No. 3 boy, skip around each other (side couples stand still and clap own hands). Couple No. 1 joins right hands again and skip around each other moving toward their home position.

Whenever a couple is free, clap own hands.

Repeat the entire dance, with couple No. 2 doing the visiting. Then couple No. 3, and couple No. 4.

Finish dance with the interlude.

SOYOTTEE LORRAINE French Couple Dance

Folkraft Record F 1091B b

"Soyotte" is the patois for the French "Scie" meaning: "Saw." This dance is popular through Lorraine and Champagne provinces of France. There are many other dances resembling this one among various European nations.

Position: Face partner with hands criss-crossed in a skating position.

Jump and extend L heel forward and at the same time turn body in a counter-clockwise direction (saw)--boy's left hand and girl's right hand pulled backward during the jump, but not released. One measure.

Jump again, this time extending R heel forward, and saw pulling other hands back and turn slightly to face a clockwise direction.

During the next two measures execute four jumps as above sawing hands back and forth during the jumps.

Repeat all of the above once again.

Now there is a one-measure interlude during which time the dancers may either stand still, mark time in place, or, the boy will bow while the girl curtsies.

Repeat all of the above minus the interlude.

During the next 8 measures (part B), without releasing hands, all turn to face a counter-clockwise direction and either skip forward or polka. Do a regular West European type of polka (not Lithuanian style).