

DANSE FISEL
(Brittany - France)

This dance is from the Lower Brittany region of France. It was observed by Yves Moreau in Lorient, France in 1979.

Pronunciation: DAHNS FEE-SELL

Record: Dances of Brittany DB-3, Side B (45 rpm). 2/4 meter.

Formation: Mixed lines (or open circle), hands joined down at sides. Wt is on R ft, face slightly L of ctr.
Leader is at L end of line.

Meas

Pattern

Introduction: Not easy to identify; musicians play the complete melody line through once, without any rhythm accompaniment. Approximate length of Introduction is 30 seconds!

FIGURE I. Basic Gavotte.

- 1 Step on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L with slight knee bend (ct 1); brisk touch of full R ft in front of L, no wt change, and straightening knee (ct &); transfer wt even more fully onto L, picking up R ft sharply ("pumping" motion) (ct 2).
- 3 Step on R across L to L (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2).
- 4 Step sharply on R twd ctr with marked knee bend and with marked "thump" simultaneously picking up L ft behind R calf (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- 5-7 Repeat meas 1-3.
- 8 Repeat meas 4, but when stepping to ctr on R, pivot CCW to L, keeping wt on R and pointing L ft in front (thus you now face wall).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 but now facing wall and still going to L.
- 17-24 Repeat meas 1-8 (except no turn on last meas - face ctr).

Arms sequence for above Gavotte Step:

- 1-7 Arms swing straight and strongly bkwd and fwd (odd meas bkwd, even meas fwd).
- 8 When doing pivot on R ft, arms continue fwd and swing up high (let go of neighbors!), then come down and back to continue regular motion again.

FIGURE II. "Fisel" Step.

Arms: Arms here are joined in tightly closed arm grasp (as in Turkish and Middle Eastern dances, but do not interlock fingers - thumb over thumb only).

- 1 Facing ctr, step on L to L, simultaneously sliding R twd L ft (ct 1); sharp leap onto R ft next to L, and kicking L leg up bkwd sharply, knee bent (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 Dance three small steps, L,R,L slightly to L.
- 4 Repeat meas 3 but with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5-24 Repeat meas 1-4 five more times.

DANSE FISEL (Continued)

Note: Meas 3-4 can sometimes be replaced by leaps L and hold, R and hold (free ft kicks behind and dangles sharply).

Repeat dance from beginning.

Presented by Yves Moreau
Description by Yves Moreau