

Bavarian Landler

(Bavaria)

Comment: There are many Lancers, some very complicated, others quite simple. Usually the dance is an ending in traditional "Schuhplattler". The "Schuhplattler" is a characteristic Bavarian figure done only by the men with much slapping of the thighs, heels, and knees. The ladies merely pivot around in place. The landler given here is a city version of the dance and does not include the "Schuhplattler" but has enough of the traditional Lancer figures to enable you to take on more challenging versions later on. While the dance has many figures, it is basically simple for the footwork is the same throughout. All one has to do is remember the sequence. Note that the figures are done in the following manner to fit the music:

Fig. 1 - 16 measures
Fig. 2 - 16 measures
Fig. 3 - 8 measures
Fig. 4 - 8 measures
Fig. 5 - 16 measures
Fig. 6 - 16 measures

Fig. 7 - 8 measures
Fig. 8 - 8 measures
Fig. 9 - 16 measures
Fig. 10 - 16 measures
Fig. 11 - 8 measures
Fig. 12 - 8 measures

Formation: As many couples as will fit around the room.

Step: A heavy peasant waltz step in moderate tempo is used throughout the dance. The first count of each waltz step is heavily accented.

Figure 1 - Right-hand grasp

Right hands are clasped at eye level, with elbows bent at right angle. Free left hands are kept on hips. Couple waltzes around in place (man begins with left foot, lady with right), swaying slightly from side to side.

Figure 2 - Waltz

Partners take ballroom position and, turning clockwise, dance counter-clockwise around the room with the same heavy waltz step.

Figure 3 - Cross Hands Grasp

Partners cross hands (right with right, left with left) and, leaning backward, turn in place (clockwise) with 8 waltz steps.

Figure 4 - Lady Turns

Man holds right arm high as lady grasps one finger of his up-lifted hand with her right hand. The lady turns clockwise under the raised hands as the couple dances counter-clockwise around the room. The man follows her as she turns, moving forward and keeping her directly in front of him - 8 waltz steps in all.

Figure 5 - Back Grasp

Partners hook right elbows and then place left hands behind own backs. Lady takes man's left hand with her right hand, and man holds lady's left hand with his right hand. They now turn clockwise in place with 15 waltz steps.

Figure 6 - Lady Kneels

Lady kneels on right knee. Partners join right hands and man dances clockwise around lady with 16 waltz steps.

Figure 7 - Neck-waist Hold

Lady rises and clasps her hands behind her neck. Man places his hands around her waist. Turning clockwise, they dance around the room with 8 waltz steps.

Figure 8 - Man Kneels

Man kneels on right knee. Partners hold right hands as lady dances clockwise around man with 8 waltz steps.

Figure 9 - Window

Partners face each other and join hands overhead (right with right, left with left). Lady holds man's middle finger of each hand to facilitate turns. Joined hands are held high. Lady turns around twice to right, under uplifted arms. (Arms will become entangled.) They lower joined left hands, bending right elbows at a right angle thus forming a window, through which they may see each other. The man stands still as the lady turns. This figure is done in 3 counts. After the window is formed, the couple continues dancing in place, turning clockwise with waltz steps.

Figure 10 - Unwind step and turn

Still holding both hands, lady turns twice around to the left under joined hands. Lady now reverses direction as she turns to the right (clockwise) under joined right hands.

Couple dances forward, lady turning and man following, for 7 waltz steps. Left hands are on hips.

Figure 11 - The Chase

With hands on hips, lady waltzes forward alone, looking back at the man over one shoulder and then over the other. Man follows chasing her with open arms for 8 waltz steps.

Figure 12 - Waltz

Couples takes ballroom position and, turning clockwise, waltzes 8 steps in a counter-clockwise direction. It is customary for the man to lift his partner high in the air on the last note of the music.

Teaching Hints: In all of the figures where the girl turns, she should use a fast pivot step, taking one step for each beat of the music. The free hand during this pivot is kept just above the waist. (This is due to the fact that the bodice in Bavarian costumes is heavily adorned with strings of coins that would bounce up and down if not held down by the hand).