

Le Porcher

France (Alsace)

Le Porcher (luh pohr-SHAY), the Swineherd, was presented at the 1983 Mendocino Folklore Camp by Yvon Guilcher, who attributed its rhythmic complexity to “contemporary invention,” notably by Alsatian Richard Schneider. The mixture of two-step and waltz is a reminder of the German Zwiefacher. The dance has been taught recently by Marilyn Smith at the 2011 Festival of the Oaks, Feb 26 at Live Oak Park, Berkeley, CA.

Music: CDs: Dances from the French Countryside, Band 3. 2/4 & 3/4 meter
Marilyn Smith: Festival of the Oaks, Feb 26, 2011, Band 5.
Meter: 2/4 & 3/4. The relatively fast measures, counted: 1, 2 and 1, 2, 3, respectively, are of approximately equal lengths,

Formation: Couples in ballroom position are scattered randomly, each dancing within a small area.

Steps and Styling: Steps are fast and small. Turns are tight and may end facing in any direction.

Measure	2/4 & 3/4 meter	PATTERN
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8 INTRODUCTION - No action. 8 meas = 2/4+2/4+3/4+3/4+2/4+2/4+3/4+3/4.
Steps are described for M; W footwork is opposite throughout.

I. SIDE STEPS & WALTZ TURNS

- 1 Step L on L (ct 1); step R beside L with wt (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1, ct 1 (ct 1); close R beside L, no wt (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 5 Turning CW as a couple, waltz L, R, L.
- 6 Continuing CW turn, waltz R, L, R.
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6.

II. PIVOT TURNS & WALTZ TURNS

- 1 Turning CW as a couple, pivot: L (ct 1); R (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 5-6.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (4 times total).

Sequence: Dance repeats three times from the beginning, a total of four.

We thank Bill Lidicker for some valuable comments.