

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Dave Rosenberg

PRAXPLATTLER

Austrian

THIS DANCE IS FOR MEN ONLY*

SOURCE: As performed by the Austrian group, The Tyroliers, at Folk Dance House, New York City.

RECORD: Folk Dancers MH 3018

NOTE:* All plattling should be done only by men. In Austria and Germany, it is most unseemly for girls to plattle, and they would not consider doing it. They know their proper place in a "man's world," and take pride in their subordinate role in the dances. Even in this country, where women are considered equal to men in most respects, the schuhplattle is not appropriate for girls. Because of the strong feelings of the Bavarian and Austrian dance groups in Europe and the German-Americans who have taught Dave, he will not teach plattlers to girls.

 Pattern

INTRODUCTION

Raising arms, with bent elbows, hands held at head level with palms out, stamp with right foot on first count of first measure. Stamp right foot again on first count of second measure. Then execute a hochsprung.

HOCHSPRUNG

- 1st count: Right hand slaps sole of left foot, as left foot is raised in back of right leg (small leap on to right foot as this is done).
- 2nd count: Left hand slaps left thigh, as left leg is lifted up high with knee bent (hop on right foot).
- 3rd count: Right hand reaches out and slaps instep of right foot, as right leg is kicked up and straight out in front (left leg comes down).

As right foot comes down, swing it under the body and kneel on right knee, slap floor with right hand. There is music added for this action.

This entire action is vigorous and men should get as high off ground as possible.

continued...

Praxplattler (cont'd)

PART I. MARCHING LEFT AND RIGHT

Form circle by putting right hand on upper arm (bicep) of man in front. (Left thumb is thrust through top of suspenders.) Walk with deliberate, short marching steps to the left for seven measures (four steps per measure). On eighth measure turn to face opposite direction, putting left hand on upper left arm of man ahead and right hand in suspender.

March to right for seven measures. On eighth measure turn to face center of circle and back away a little, each man standing by himself in "ready" position (feet together, arms raised with elbows bent).

PART II PLATTLE WITH STAMPS

While executing plattlers, keep these things in mind. Just as much as the hands slap against the feet and thighs, the feet and thighs should come up to meet the hands. The top of the body should be kept straight and erect, with head up. Arms should be bent at elbows, rather than held straight. The hops on the supporting foot are so small and light that your foot scarcely leaves the ground; they are more like bounces.

Measure 1: Hop on left foot, one hop on each quarter note. Follow this slapping pattern:

1st 8th note Slap thigh with right hand (bend knee to bring thigh up to hand)

2nd 8th Slap right thigh with left hand

3rd 8th Slap right thigh with right hand

4th 8th Slap right thigh with left hand

5th 8th Slap sole of right foot, raised behind, with right hand

6th 8th Slap right thigh with left hand

Measure 2: Repeat action of Measure 1.

Measure 3: Repeat action of Measure 1.

Measure 4: Raise both arms, elbows bent, palms forward at head level. Stamp right foot three times (once each quarter note).

Repeat Measures 1 through 4, twice more (12 measures in all)

For last four measures, repeat plattler pattern of Measure 1 and 2 and then do a hochsprung, ending on right knee without handslaps on floor.

Continued...

PART III. CIRCLING AND KICKING

Form a circle by putting hands on upper arm of neighbor on either side, and turn body to face left. Step on right foot, moving to left, and with a little hop on right foot, lift foot to kick neighbor (with inner side of foot) firmly and deliberately, on the rump. Then step on left foot.

Do this seven times, and on eighth measure, take two stamps to turn and face right.

Repeat, going to right, booting neighbor with right foot. On eighth measure, face center and move away from center of circle, ready to start the plattler.

PART IV. PLATTLER WITH HOCHSPRUNG

Execute measure 1, 2, and 3 of Part II, and then do a hochsprung. (Note: Your right foot does not come down; keep it raised for first slap of plattler.) Repeat four times. At end of fourth time kneel at end of hochsprung.

PART V. CIRCLING AND KICKING

Repeat PART III.

PART VI. PLATTLER WITH STAMPS

Repeat PART II.

On last hochsprung, come down with right knee touching floor and slap floor with right hand.