

Schuhplattler

(Bavaria)

Commentary: In the Bavarian Alps the peasants perform this dance in colorful costumes; girls wear bright full skirts, aprons, flowered head pieces, and knee socks; men wear Lederhosen (short leather pants), knee socks, and Alpine hats. Originally, this dance was performed to keep warm, for the dancers slap their hands and legs vigorously. The Bavarian Schuhplattler is the most beautiful and popular folk dance of this area. The routine given here is that used by the Lariats in their television presentation of this dance.

Formation: A line of couples facing the audience.

Basic Step: Throughout the dance, when one hand is not being used in a slapping motion, it should be raised shoulder-high to the side. Stamp-step-step-hop.

Part I

1-8 Men enter after four measures of introduction. Do the basic step on stage with R side to audience. M enter from stage R, doing eight of the basic steps with hands swinging freely in front of them. Start the basic step with the R foot (stamp R, step L, step R, hop R). On the eighth step, stamp L foot, step R, step bkwd with L foot, hop L and point R foot in front and put hips on hips. M should end their entrance step with right side to audience.

Part II

1-8 Girls come on stage from stage L, with L side to audience, hands on hips. Entrance step: stamp R, step L, step R, hop R; stamp L, step R, step L, hop L - then do four step hops in place, turning CW making two complete rotations with L hand still on hip, R hand raised overhead. Repeat this entire step once. Girls should end up in front of their partners facing them.

Part III

Partners do this step facing each other and use the same footwork.

1	1	Stamp L foot.
	2	Kick R foot in air, slap hands together under knee.
	3	Stamp R foot.
	4	Clap own hands together.
2	1	Clap R hands with partner.
	2	Clap own hands together.
	3	Clap L hands with partner.
	4	Clap own hands together.
3	1	Slap R thigh with R hand and slap L thigh with L hand.
	2	Slap R thigh with R hand and slap L thigh with L hand.
	3	Bend L leg at knee across R leg, slap L ankle with R hand.
	4	Stamp on L foot, clap boths hands together.
4	1	Slap L thigh with L hand and R thigh with R hand.
	2	Slap L thigh with L hand and R thigh with R hand.
	3	Bend R leg at knee across L leg, slap R ankle with L hand.
	4	Stamp R foot, clap both hands with partner.
5-8		Repeat meas 1-4 of Part III.

Part IV

Partners face audience, use the same footwork.

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| 1 | 1 | Hop on R foot, point L foot out to side. |
| | 2 | Hop on R foot, bend L leg at knee across R foot and slap L ankle with R hand. |
| | 3 | Hop on R foot, bend L leg at knee out to L side and slap L ankle with L hand. |
| | 4 | Hop on R foot, bend L leg at knee across R foot and slap L ankle with R hand. |
| 2 | 1 | Hop on L foot, point R foot out to side. |
| | 2 | Hop on L foot, bend R leg at knee across L foot and slap R ankle with L hand. |
| | 3 | Hop on L foot, bend R leg at knee out to R side and slap R ankle with R hand. |
| | 4 | Hop on L foot, bend R leg at knee across L foot and slap R ankle with L hand. |
| 3-8 | | Repeat meas 1-2 of Part IV. |

Part V

- 1-8 In shoulder-waist position, partners move in circle CCW making one complete revolution to original position. Step used: stamp, step, step, hop. M start with L foot, girls with R foot, rotating to each man's R as they move.

Part VI

Partners face the audience, girl should be on man's R. Girls should step a little in front of the men on the first movement.

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| 1 | 1 | Leap on R foot. |
| | 2 | Bend L leg at knee behind R foot, slap L ankle with R hand. |
| | 3 | Leap on L foot. |
| | 4 | Bend R leg at knee behind L foot, slap R ankle with L hand. |
| 2 | | Repeat meas 1 of Part IV. |
| 3 | 1 | Raise R knee, slap R thigh with R hand and slap raised R thigh with L hand. |
| | 2 | Slap raised R thigh with R hand and slap raised R thigh with L hand. |
| | 3 | Hop on R foot. |
| | 4 | Bend L leg at knee behind R leg, slap L ankle with R hand. |
| 4 | 1 | Raise L knee, slap L thigh with L hand and slap raised L thigh with R hand. |
| | 2 | Slap raised L thigh with L hand and slap raised L thigh with R hand. |
| | 3 | Hop on L foot. |
| | 4 | Bend R leg at knee behind L leg, slap R ankle with L hand. |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas 1-4 of Part IV. |

Part VII

Partners face each other.

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| 1 | 1 | Slap both hands on thighs. |
| | 2 | Clap own hands together. |
| | 3 | Clap both hands of partner. |
| | 4 | Clap own hands together. |

- 2 1 Slap both hands on thighs.
- 2 2 Clap both hands behind your back.
- 3 3 Slap both hands on thighs.
- 4 4 Clap hands together.
- 3 1 Clap R hands with partner.
- 2 2 Clap own hands together.
- 3 3 Clap L hand with partner.
- 4 4 Clap own hands together.
- 4 1 Slap both hands on thighs.
- 2 2 Clap both hands together.
- 3 Girls clap own hands in back of partner's neck, boys clap own hands in back of partner's waist.
- 4 Clap own hands together.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 of Part VI.

Part VIII

Partners face audience, use the same footwork.

- 1 1 Stamp R foot.
- 2 2 Slap side of R leg with R hand.
- 3 3 In front of body slap R ankle with L hand.
(Counts 2, 3, and 4 are done while dancer hops on the L foot.)
- 4 4 At side of body slap R ankle with R hand.
- 2 1 In back of body slap R ankle with L hand.
- 2 2 Clap own hands together, L hand ending in air, head-high.
- 3 3 Leap onto R foot.
- 4 4 Behind Body slap L ankle with R hand.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 of Part VIII, using opposite footwork.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 of Part VIII.

Part IX

- 1-8 Partners turn R side to R side. M holds girl's R hand behind his back with his L hand, girl holds M's R hand behind her back with her L hand. Each couple rotates CW in place doing the following step: stamp, step, step, hop. Both dancers start with the L foot and first lean twd each other, then, as they do this step, they lean away from each other.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 of Part IX, using opposite hands and moving CCW in place.

Part X

- 1-16 Girls turn in place, stepping on the R foot and then hopping, then stepping on the L foot and hopping. Girls should always turn to the R and should have their hands on their hips.
- With L side to the audience, M stamp the L foot to the L side, close the R foot to the side of the L - repeat this step 7 times. On the eighth measure hop on the L foot and swing the R foot across the L leg, then behind the L leg, then across the L leg again. Repeat this entire sequence using the opposite footwork, returning to original position.

Part XI

- 1 1 Partners face the audience, leap into the air.
- 2 2 Partners land on their R knee, L knee up.

- 3 Hit the floor with both hands in front and to the sides of the raised knee.
- 4 Clap own hands together above raised knee.
- 2 1 Slap L thigh with R hand and slap L thigh with L hand.
- 2 Slap L thigh with R hand and slap L thigh with L hand.
- 3 Slap R side of L ankle with R hand.
- 4 Clap own hands together above raised knee.
- 3 1 Hit floor with R hand and hit floor with L hand.
- 2 Hit floor with R hand and hit floor with L hand.
- 3 Raise R foot and slap R ankle with R hand.
- 4 Clap hands together under R leg.
- 4 1 Slap R thigh with R hand and slap R thigh with L hand.
- 2 Slap R thigh with R hand and slap R thigh with L hand.
- 3 Raise R leg and slap ankle with R hand.
- 4 Clap hands together under R leg.
- 5 1 Stamp L foot.
- 2 Clap both hands together.
- 3 Slap both hands on floor.
- 4 Clap both hands together.
- 6-7 Repeat meas 2-3 of Part III.
- 8 1 Step on R foot, stand up at the same time (explained at the beginning of Part IX).
- 2 Clap own hands together.
- 3 Slap thighs with both hands.
- 4 Clap own hands together.

Part XII

- 1-16 Face partner and repeat meas 1-8 of Part III twice.

Part XIII

Face the audience, girls stand slightly in front of men.

- 1-8 Repeat meas 1-2 of Part IV - M do this seven times. Girls do this step six times, then do two turns to their R and go back to the side of their Partner. On the last beat of the music the men drop on their R knee and the girls sit on the boys' L knee. Girls end with their L hand around their partner's shoulder and their R hand over their head. Men end with their R hand around their partner's waist and their L hand on their hips, or above their head.