

THE BAVARIAN ZWEIFACHER
(Germany)

Known as the "Zweifacher", "Bayrischer", "Übern Fuass", and other names, these "mixed rhythm" dances native to Bavaria are currently regaining popularity among German dance groups, thanks partly to Otto Ebner's brass band in Munich. The two rhythms of the Zweifacher are the $\frac{3}{4}$ waltz and $\frac{2}{4}$ "dreher" turn. The melody of a Zweifacher song is so contrived as to give the dancer a certain number of waltz steps, then changing the rhythm for one, two or more dreher steps. The complete patterns for 15 of the most popular Zweifacher are given here. However, native dancers simply learn the tune (to the point of being able to hum or whistle along) and the music thereby is the guide for the "Verzwickten" (tricky change).

Because of this unusual change from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{2}{4}$ time, and back, these dances present something of a challenge to the American folk dancer. These mixed rhythms are not unlike those of the Bulgarian Horo and other Balkan dances. Thus dancers who enjoy the latter might well be attracted to the Bavarian Zweifacher, while dancers used to the variety in pattern dances often tire of the constant turning movement of the Zweifacher. This can be overcome by reversing the turns - either to the right or the left. A couple might even dance straight ahead for a rest, as, fortunately, there are no set rules other than dancing "according to the traffic."

Otto Ebner is a native of Deggendorf in Niederbayern (Lower Bavaria), and has directed a large brass band in Munich for many years. It is very well known and much in demand everywhere, especially among folk dance groups, due to the band's large repertoire of folk dance music. Ebner has done considerable research in the field, discovering many interesting dance tunes. As a publicity leaflet says, he has had the correct rhythm "in his legs from early youth". Recently his orchestra has recorded 15 Zweifacher dances on three 45-EP records, as well as a series of simple folk dances of Bavaria.

Of the 15 patterns listed here, 3 will be taught at today's institute. They are "Alte Kath", "Die Neun Haeuser", and "Leit, Leit".

Sources: "Die Zweifachen" by Felix Hoerbuerger, Akademie Verlag, Berlin, 1956. This is a very comprehensive coverage of the subject. Also, correspondence with Walter Koegler, the producer of "Tanz" records, as well as study in Stuttgart and Munich and observing a Bavarian "Maifest" - all by John Filcich in 1962.

Steps: "Dreher step" - is similar to the pivot turn step, but executed in a heavier, earthier manner. There is a flexing of the knees, especially pronounced for the man. There is a lift of the heels on the "&" count. This is truer when there are more than two dreher steps in a sequence, or when the music is slower. Fast music tends to produce the ordinary pivot step. Make either a $\frac{1}{2}$ turn in two dreher steps (DD), or a full turn in four steps (DDDD).

"W" in the directions given here denotes one waltz step, for example IRL. "D" denotes one dreher step done to one measure of $\frac{2}{4}$ music. (e.g.: R ft.).

Steps: For example, WWDD, as in the popular "Alte Kath", means 2 waltz steps (LRL,RIR), plus two dreher steps (L,R,) to 4 measures of music, or rather, 4 measures of "mixed" music.

Formation: Couples in ball room position, at random on the floor.

Patterns: Titles and dance patterns are listed according to the record number. Patterns taught at today's institute are in CAPITALS. The patterns shown between the dots are to be repeated. Numbers shown in parenthesis denote the number of measures of introduction.

Teacher: Morrie Gelman.

TANZ EP 56 - 908

ALTE KATH (0)

/:WWDDWWDDWWDDWWDD:/

"s Luada (4)

DDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW /:DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD:/

Sechs Löffel (8)

DDDDDDWWDDDDDDWW

Deifi du Dürer (5)

WDDWDDWDDWDDWDDWDDWW

DIE NEU'N HAUSER (6)

WWDDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW

TANZ EP 56 - 909

Saulocker (6)

DDDDWWDDDDWW/ DDDWWDDDDWW

Wintergrün (4)

WWWDDWWDDWW

LEIT, LEIT (5)

DDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW

Eisenkeilnest (4)

DDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW

Tauberer (4)

WWWDDDDWW/ WWWDDDDWW

WWWWWWW/ WWWDDDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWWDDDDWW

TANZ EP 56 - 910

Schubkarr'n (4)

WWDDWWDDWWDDWWDD / DDDDDDDDDDDDDDDDD

Bayerischer Bauer (4)

WWDDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW

Sechsenddreissiger (4)

WWDDWWDD / WWDDDDWWDDWWDD

Nagelschmied (4)

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWWDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWWDDWWDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWWDDWWDDWWDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWWDDWWDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWWDDWW

WWWWWWW / WWW / DDWW

Bavarian Zweifacher, cont'd.

3-3-3

Sommernichl (6) DDDDWDDDDWW / WWWDDDDWWDDDDWW / WDDWDDWDDWW

The above notes, with minor additions and corrections by the Research & Standardization Committee, are by John Filcich.

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