

BOURRÉES CROISÉES

(France)

Bourrées Croisées (Boor-RAY Krah-zay) comes from the region of Berry. Pierre Panis taught the dance to Louise and Germain Hébert, who introduced it at the 1965 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

Bourrées are the "real" French dances, and although their origin is unknown, they are widely spread throughout French territory. This one shows the favorite way to do bourrée -- in a "quadrette," doing variations on the "avant-deux."


MUSIC: Record: BAM 266 - Side A, band 4.

W M ↓

M W ↑

FORMATION: 2 cpls form a "quadrette" as they face each other. M has ptr to his R. M face opp M, W face W. Hands free at sides when not otherwise directed; or W may hold skirt or edge of apron where hands fall naturally. Do not swish skirt.

STEPS AND In Berry, bourrées are danced in a very sober manner, with the M carrying most of the
STYLING: typical styling in their knee action. In the long step fwd, M lead with the heel, then taking full body wt onto the whole ft. M knees are kept apart (turned out) and never fully straightened through out the dance. W are strictly forbidden to copy M styling, and they dance in a very delicate way. Footwork is identical for both M and W.

Pas de Bourrée (Pah deh boor-RAY) - Bourrée step (1 meas): 

Step fwd on L, bending knees outward (ct 1); step on R near L, beginning to straighten knees slightly (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3). Next pas de bourrée would begin with R. The step can be done moving fwd or bwd, to R or L, or turning.

Avant-deux droit (ah-vahn-doo drwaht) - straight move for two people (4 meas): 2 dancers face each other about 4 ft apart.

Meas 1: Beginning L, dance 1 bourrée step twd each other.

Note: First step is a long one.

Meas 2: Beginning R, dance 1 bourrée step in place.

Meas 3: Beginning L, dance 1 bourrée step moving bwd to original place.

Meas 4: Beginning R, dance 1 bourrée step in original place, crossing L over R.

Note: M bend both knees on ct 1, particularly in meas 2 and 4.

Avant-deux épaulé (Ah-vahn-doo ay-poh-lay) épaulé = shoulders (4 meas): 2 dancers about 4 ft apart with L shoulder twd each other, ready to dance 1 bourrée step twd each other as follows:

Meas 1: Beginning L, take 1 long step twd each other, at the same time turning 1/2 L, CCW (ct 1) to bring R shoulders twd each other. Step R beside L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3). Do not dip shoulder.

Meas 2: Dance 1 bourrée step in place: Step R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).

Meas 3: Step slightly bwd on L, turning 1/4 R, CW (ct 1); step R near L (ct 2); step L beside R (ct 3). Dancers are now facing each other.

Meas 4: Dance 1 bourrée step moving bwd, away from each other, as follows: Step diag bwd R on R, beginning 1/4 turn R, CW (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3).

This brings dancers pointing L shoulders twd each other, ready to repeat avant-deux droit step.

Croisements (Crawz-mahn) - Crossing over (4 meas): 2 dancers begin with L shoulders twd each other.

Meas 1: Beginning L, take 1 long step twd each other, at same time turning 1/2 L, CCW (ct 1). (Dancers now have R shoulders twd each other.) Step R beside L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).

Meas 2: Beginning R, dancers move slightly swd R with 1 bourrée step to finish just past face to face pos as follows: Step swd R on R (ct 1); step L beside R (ct 2);

BOURRÉES CROISÉES (continued)

- step R in place (ct 3).
- Meas 3: Beginning L, dancers move into opp place with 1 bourrée step as follows: Step L across R making 3/4 R (CW) turn (ct 1); step R beside L (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3). Dancers are now facing each other.
- Meas 4: Beginning R, dancers move bwd away from each other, with one bourrée step: Step diag bwd R on R, beginning 1/4 turn R, CW (ct 1); step L across R (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3). Dancers now have L shoulders twd each other, ready to repeat croisement step.

Epingle a cheveux (Ay-payng-leh ahsh-VUER) - hairpin turn (4 meas):

Meas 1-2: Repeat action of meas 1-2 of "avant-deux épaulé".

Meas 3: Take a fast 3/4 turn CCW on L ft (ct 1); step on R near L ft (ct 2); step L in place (ct 3).

17

MUSIC 3/8

Meas 4 - Repeat action of meas 4 of "avant deux épauale"

Measures

No Introduction

NOTE: Throughout dance, W does same steps as M - but always 2 measures later.

A I. BOURRÉE CROISÉE d'OULCHES (Doolsh) (Straight Forward Move)

All join hands at shoulder height.

1-2 M move twd each other, R hips adjacent, with meas 1-2 of avant-deux droit step. Accent ct 1 of meas 2.
W remain in place; no action.

3-4 M move back to original places with meas 3-4 of avant-deux droit step.
W perform action of meas 1-2, as described for M.

5-16 M repeat avant-deux droit steps (fwd and back) 3 more times (4 in all).
W continue steps as described for M. NOTE: W steps will carry over into next phrase of music.
All release hands.

B II. CROISEMENTS (Crawz-mahn) (Crossing Over)

W hold skirt or edge of apron.

1-4 M exchange places with 1 croisement step.
W finish last 2 meas of Fig I; then follow action of M.

5-8 M return to original places with 1 croisement step.
W continue to follow.

9-16 M repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II), across and back.
W continue to follow.

A III. BOURRÉE CROISÉE SIMPLE (SAM-plan) (Shoulder to Shoulder)

1-16 M dance 4 avant-deux épaulé steps.
W finish Fig II; then continue to follow action of M.

B IV. CROISEMENTS (Crossing Over)

1-16 M repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-16.
W finish Fig III; then continue to follow action of M.

24

BOURRÉES CROISÉES (continued)

- A V. VARIATION: BOURRÉE CROISSÉE d'AUBIGNY (DOUGH-bee-knee)
- 1-16 M dance 4 avant-deux droit steps. On 2nd meas, as they bend knees (ct 1), they raise their fists, thumbs pointing upward, elbows bent, forearms parallel to floor (a sharp gesture).
Arms drop to sides again (ct 2).
W finish last 2 meas of Fig IV; then dance 4 Epingle a cheveux steps.
- B VI. CROISEMENTS (Crossing Over)
- 1-16 M repeat action of Fig II, meas 1-16.
W finish last 2 meas of Fig V; then continue to follow action of M to end of music.
- At end of dance, custom decrees that M kiss ptr first on her L cheek, then her R cheek.

"Grand Right and Left"
from la Bourree Pastourelle,
a circle bourree from Berry.
(Les Folkloristes de Saint
Jean)



"Les Folkloristes de
St. Jean" is a local
group. They were the
first group to learn
bourree from Louise
and Germain Hebert.



Important!

An error was made in the printing of the following dance description. Please make a correction in your copy of the February 1966 issue of LET'S DANCE.

BOURREES CROISEES

Steps: Epingle á cheveux (hairpin turn)

Meas 4 - Repeat action of meas 4 of
"avant deux épaule".

Thanks