

## Branle de la Fosse aux Loups

(France, Alsace)

Branle de la Fosse aux Loups (BRAHN-luh duh lah FOSS oh LOO) means “Branle of the Pit of Wolves.” The noun “branle” derives from the verb “branler,” meaning to swing from side to side. The Branle is native to France. This one is from the province of Alsace and was learned by Roberto Bagnoli when he taught a workshop there in 2012. Although Roberto did not officially teach the dance at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2014, he played the music as background during the second week of camp and, at the request of Karen Bennett, demonstrated it. On the Wednesday of the week following camp, Roberto taught the dance at a workshop he conducted in Berkeley, California.

Music: 6/8 in a fast tempo Roberto Bagnoli – *Ethnic Festival 014*, Track #10

Formation: An open circle with hands joined in V-pos. The leader is on the left.

Steps & Styling: Walking steps; Double Branle Step; Single Branle Step. Except during optional turns, arms continuously swing fwd and back with straight elbows, taking up every count of the music, with the footwork occurring only on counts 2 and 4. The style is smooth and sedate, with no hopping.  
Double Branle Step: Facing center, step sideways; close feet together, taking weight on trailing foot; step sideways again; close, without weight on trailing foot. Can be done to L or R.  
Single Branle Step: Facing center, step sideways; swing or kick trailing foot fwd low, with the knee held straight. Can be done to L or R.

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Measure	6/8 meter	PATTERN
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8 Meas INTRODUCTION No action. Start with the melody on accordion.

I. BASIC

- 1 Facing ctr, begin to swing arms fwd (ct 1); walk L to L, arms continuing to swing fwd (ct 2); arms reach apogee of fwd swing (ct 3); cross R in front of L, arms beginning to swing bkwd (ct 4); arms reach apogee of bkwd swing (ct 5); arms swing down (ct 6).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 except cross R behind L on ct 4. Note: the ftwk of meas 1-2 is a four-step grapevine.
- 3-4 Do a Double Branle Step to the L. Arms continue swinging as in meas 1.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp. ftwk and direction. This is a Double Branle Step to the R. Arm swinging continues.
- 7 Do a Single Branle Step to the L, with kick on ct 4; arm swinging continues.
- 8 Repeat meas 7 with opp ftwk and direction. This is a Single Branle Step to the R; arm swinging continues.

II. TURN VARIATION

- 1-2 At call of leader, drop handhold (discontinuing arm swings) and turn CCW once around in four steps beg L, traveling the same distance as in the grapevine in Fig. I, meas 1-2 (which the turn replaces). The call is “Tournez” (TOOR-NAY: “Turn”). Another turn is signaled by the leader saying “Encore une fois” (AHN-cohr oon FWAH: “Once more”). It is rare to do more than two consecutive turns. Upon completing a turn, rejoin hands, which are already swinging fwd for Fig. I, meas 3.

Repeat dance to end of music.