

ECOSSAISE

(Germany)

EcoSSaïse (Ay-koh-says), a dance with a French name, comes from northern Germany. It was learned from Walter Kogler and Heinz Lau by Walter Grothe, who presented it at the 1966 Folk Dance Camp at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: Tanz SP23559b

FORMATION: Sets of 4 cpls in longways formation. A line of M facing a line of W with ptrs facing, ML shoulder twd music or top of set. Cpls are numbered from 1 to 4 with cpl #1 at top of set.

STEPS: Slide*, Walking step*, Polka*

*Described in volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc. 1095 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94103

MUSIC: 2/4

PATTERN

Measures:

Chord INTRODUCTION

A I. SLIDES

1-2 Cpl #1 join crossed hands (R over L) and dance down the set with 2 slides, then one step and point free ft (ML, WR) across supporting ft.

3-4 Cpl #1 repeat action of meas 1-2 dancing up the set, reversing footwork and direction.

5-6 As cpl #1 release hands and return to original place, cpl #4 repeat action of meas 3-4.

7-8 Cpl #4 repeat action of meas 1-2.

B II. SHUTTLE

9-16 All join crossed hands (R over L) and dance the shuttle with 16 walking steps. Cpl #1 start moving down the set with 4 steps diag bwd to MR (fwd to WL) and 4 steps diag fwd to MR passing cpl #2, then 4 steps diag bwd passing cpl #3 and 4 steps diag fwd passing cpl #4. On last step cpl #1 take closed pos and turn to face up the set. As cpl #1 move down the set, all other cpls move up one place with 4 steps fwd starting ML (WR bwd), 4 steps bwd, then fwd and bwd again. Dance on a diagonal to move up when passing cpl #1.

C III. POLKA UP AND CAST OFF

17-24 Cpl #1 dance 4 polka steps turning CW through the middle of the set to the top. With 8 walking steps separate and cast off (turning M CCW, W CW) behind own line to finish at the bottom.

Repeat dance from beginning with a new cpl active at the head of the set.

NOTE: The Tanz record listed above (yellow label) has enough music to do the dance 4 times so that each cpl has a chance to be active. An earlier recording, Tanz Der Volker T72480 (green label) had only enough music for 3 times in all.