

## La Java

(France)

La Java (lah zhah-VAH), a vintage French dance, was a mazurka from rural Auvergne, whose emigrants at the end of the nineteenth century, especially to the Bastille and Montmartre districts of Paris, led to the creation of many Bal Musettes. These were the dance halls of the working class, where the waltz, polka, one step and java were danced to the music of accordians, saxophones and guitars. Parisian social dancers adopted the distinctive style of La Java, which was exhibited in cabaret entertainment as a rough "apache" style *Java Vache*. The dance was not noticed by the popular press until 1919, after decades in the Bal Musettes. The name and pronunciation *Java* reflect the reaction by the amused and mildly contemptuous Parisians to countrified Auvernoise for *ça va!* The dance was taught by Richard Powers at Mendocino Folklore Camp 2000 and Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2001.

Music: "Finotte Java" original recording by Deprince et Son Orchestre, Paris, 1933.  
CD: Dance Music, Richard Powers, Stockton 2001, Band 3.  
Cassette: Dance Music, Richard Powers, Stockton 2001, Side A/3.  
3/4 meter; tempo 170 beats per minute

Formation: There is considerable variety in acceptable couple positions, including normal ballroom, or close ballroom with WR hand pressed against ML shoulder, elbows down. M may dance with L hand on hip or in pocket, as WR hand holds skirt or is placed on hip. Other possibilities include shldr-waist and shldr/shldr-blade positions; with more familiarity W may extend her arms around M's neck.

Styling: The dance is lively. Styling is described below for the individual figures.  
Footwork and direction are for M; except where noted these are opposite for W.

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Measures	3/4 meter	PATTERN
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4 meas     INTRODUCTION

I. JAVA MARCHE (one-step, also called *pas courus* and *java promenade*)

- 1     Facing LOD, walk fwd L,R,L flat footed with a slight sway of the upper body in the direction of the supporting ft (cts 1-3).
- 2-4     With alternating ftwk, repeat meas 1 three times.

II. JAVA GLISSÉE (side steps, also called *pas de côté* or *la marche de côté*)

- 1     Continuing to face LOD, and swaying as in Fig I, move twd ctr with side step on L to L (ct 1); close R beside L with wt (ct 2); step on L to L (ct 3).
- 2     Continuing to move twd ctr with side steps, close R beside L with wt (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); close R beside L with wt (ct 3).
- 3     Repeat meas 1.
- 4     Stamp R, L with wt (cts 1-2); hold (ct 3).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

III. LA PAS MARQUÉ (rocking steps, also called pas de habanera)

- 1 Leaving R ft on floor, step fwd on L slightly to L (ct 1); step back on R in place (ct 2); step on L slightly in front of R (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

IV. VALSE MARCHÉE (lock steps)

- 1 Step fwd on L slightly to L (ct 1); step fwd on R, locking R instep tightly behind L heel (W step on L in front of R) (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3 Repeat meas 1.
- 4 Stamp R, L with wt (cts 1-2); hold (ct 3).

V. LA BERCEUSE AND VALSE MUSETTE (cradle (lullaby) step or l'arrêt balance)

- 1 (La Berceuse) Turning CCW as a couple, step slightly fwd to R on R (W take a large step to L on L) (ct 1); completing the small rotation, touch L fwd, no wt (W touch R ft behind L)  
(ct 2); hold (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 3 (Valse Musette) Step fwd in LOD on R, pivoting CW (ct 1); step with shared wt on L beside R (ct 2); continuing pivot, shift wt back to R (ct 3).
- 4 Step bkwd on L in LOD, continuing CW pivot (ct 1); step with shared wt on R beside L (ct 2); shift wt back to L, completing CW turn to end facing LOD (ct 3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9-12 Repeat meas 1-2 twice.
- 13-16 Repeat steps of meas 3-4 twice, turning 1 1/2 times CW to end facing RLOD.
- 17-19 Beginning by stepping bkwd in LOD on R and pivoting CCW, dance three measures of Valse Musette, alternating ftwk and completing 1 1/2 CCW turns to end facing LOD. During Valse Musette net progression is in LOD.
- 20 Stamp L, R with wt (cts 1-2); hold (ct 3).

VI. POLKA MAZURKA

- 1 In semi-open ballroom pos, step on L to L (twd ctr), bending L knee as upper body sways to  
L (ct 1); step on R with instep beside L heel as upper body straightens (ct 2); bouncing on  
R heel, bend L knee and raise L heel twd R ankle, as upper body sways to R (ct 3).

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- 2-3** Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4** Stamp L, R (no wt).
- 5-8** Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16** Repeat meas 1-8.

**SEQUENCE:** In the choreographed version described here, the dance as written is repeated once, then Fig 1 is repeated once more. Alternatively, with the steps beginning on either ft, all the Figures may be danced freestyle.