

La Montagnarde

(France)

La Montagnarde (lah mohn-tahn-YARD) is a bourrée from the Auvergne region of central France. It is done in "cortège" formation which can accommodate any number of couples. Marilyn Wathen learned the dance in France in 1986, and presented it at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1987.

CASSETTE: "On Y Va" Side A/3 3/8 meter

FORMATION: Couples, one behind the other in a long column facing "up the set" (cortège). W to L of M, R hands joined behind M back, and L hands joined behind W back. Couples are spaced 3 to 4 feet apart and should maintain this distance.

STYLING: Very flat and smooth, the knees are slightly bent thruout. The dance can be done an indefinite number of times with any number of couples, but it is less effective with too few couples as the feeling of a long cortège or column of dancers is lost.

Traditionally, dancers may begin with either L or R foot; however, here all steps are described beginning with L as they were so taught.

STEPS: Pas de Bourrée: Step fwd on L (ct 1); step on R beside or slightly fwd of L (ct 2); step on L slightly fwd (ct 3). The step alternates. It also may be done turning in place or marking time in place.

Man's Stamping Pattern (2 meas):

Meas 1: Stamp L in place with weight (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on L (ct 3).

Meas 2: Stamp R kicking L fwd from knee (ct 1); hold (ct 2,3).

Man's Right Lateral Pas de Bourrée (4 meas)

Meas 1: Facing "down the set" and traveling R, step on L crossing in front of R (ct 1); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L beside or slightly fwd of R (ct 3).

Meas 2: Step on R to R (ct 1); step on L beside or slightly fwd of R (ct 2); step on R slightly to R (ct 3).

Meas 3-4: Man's Stamping Pattern.

Woman's Right Lateral Pas de Bourrée (4 meas)

Meas 1-2: Facing "up the set" and moving R do meas 1-2 of Man's Right Lateral Pas de Bourree.

Meas 3-4: Making one full turn CW, do two Pas de Bourrée steps, beg L. End facing "up the set".

Men's Left Lateral Pas de Bourree (4 meas)

Meas 1: Facing "down the set" and moving L, step on L to L (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); step slightly L on L (ct 3).

Meas 2: Step on R crossing in front of L (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R beside or slightly fwd of L (ct 3).

Meas 3-4 Man's Stamping Pattern.

Women's Left Lateral Pas de Bourrée (4 meas)

Meas 1-2 Facing "up the set" and moving L dance meas 1-2 of Man's Left Lateral Pas de Bourree.

Meas 3-4 Make one full turn CCW with two Pas de Bourrée steps, beg with L. End facing "up the set".

Arms: During all Right or Left Lateral Pas de Bourrée steps both M and W have arms up, slightly fwd, elbows somewhat bent, palms fwd, and hands at or just above head level.

MUSIC 3/8

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION An improvisation on the bagpipe (cabrette) plus three meas - no action.

I. AVANCE (Advance)

1-8 Cpls in cortège formation move fwd "up the set" with Pas de Bourrée steps. Eight meas is suggested but this is not a fixed number when danced in the village or at a bal folk, but at the beg of an 8 meas phrase and every 8 meas thereafter the "head couple" will beg Fig II.

II. TOUR SUR PLACE (Turn in Place)

1-4 Beg L, the "head couple" (cpl 1) turn 1 1/2 CW in place with 4 Pas de Bourrée steps; end facing "down the set".

5-6 Same cpl release hands and separate, bringing arms up. W passing in front of M, move diag fwd to R with two Pas de Bourrée steps, ending to R of and just beyond W of cpl 2. M move diag fwd L with two Pas de Bourrée steps, ending to L of and just beyond M of cpl 2.

7-8 M dance Man's Stamping Pattern.
W turns 1/2 CCW in place to end facing "up the set".

III. CROISEMENT (Crossing)

1-4 Cpl 1 dance Right Lateral Pas de Bourrée in the slot between cpl 2 and cpl 3, passing face to face.

5-8 Cpl 1 dance Left Lateral Pas de Bourrée in the slot between cpl 3 and cpl 4, again passing face to face.

In this figure active M always faces "down the set" and active W "up the set". Continue with this Fig, proceeding down the set until the cpl meet at the bottom of the set where they join hands in pos for Fig I. They may do a CW turn if they wish.

Every 8 meas the new "head couple" will beg Fig II, then continue "down the set" with Fig III. The cortège continues to dance the Pas de Bourrée moving "up the set", keeping 3-4 feet spacing between cpls to accommodate those doing Fig III.

The dance can go on ad infinitum.