

Les Tisserands (France)

Les Tisserands (lay tee-seh-RAHN), meaning "The Weavers," is a couple dance in Bas-Berry style choreographed by Yvon Guilcher who taught it at the 1983 Mendocino Folklore Camp. Marilyn Wathen learned it from him during the summer of 1982 in France. Subsequently, she taught it at the 1983 Kolo Festival and the 1984 North-South Folkdance Teachers' Seminar.

- CASSETTE: Bal Folk en Californie by Le Soleil Side A/4 2/4 and 3/8 meter
- RHYTHM: The music for the Chorus is played in 2/4 meter and that for the Figures is played in 3/8 meter. Steps are described in 2/4 meter. For 3/8 meter, change cts 1,&,2 to cts 1,2,3.
- FORMATION: Couples in a single circle facing in LOD (CCW), W in front of M. Hands are relaxed at sides and held slightly away from body.
- STEPS and STYLING: Pas de Bourrée Épaulé (4 meas to complete):
(pah duh boo-RAY AY-poh-lay)
Meas 1: Facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr, take a large step twd ctr on L, turning 1/2 CCW to end facing RLOD with R shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2).
Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).
Meas 2: Décalage (DAY-kah-lahzh): Step on R beside L, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach to L side with L (ct 1); step sdwd L on L (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2).
Meas 3: Take a large step away from ctr on L, turning 1/2 CW to end facing LOD with L shldr twd ctr (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2).
Variation: Dance ct 1 as described above (ct 1); bring R ft beside L, ankles almost touching and R ft parallel to floor but bearing no wt (ct &); hold (ct 2).
Meas 4: Repeat meas 2 (Décalage).
Styling is smooth and flat, with steps taken on the full ft. Knees are slightly bent throughout.

MUSIC 2/4, 3/8

PATTERN

- Measures
3/8
8 meas INTRODUCTION No action.
- 2/4 I. CHORUS (TOWARD CENTER AND BACK)
- A 1-16 M: Dance 4 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé steps.
W: Meas 1-2: No action.
Meas 3-14: Dance 3 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé steps.
Meas 15-16: Dance meas 1-2 of Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.
- 3/8 II. PASSAGE DES GARÇONS (MEN PROGRESS CW)
(pah-SAHZH day gar-SOHN)
- B 1-4 M: Dance 1 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé but on meas 3-4 pass W that is to the L (when facing ctr).
5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times, each time passing a W (4 W in all).
W: Meas 1-2: Dance meas 3-4 of Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.
Meas 3-16: Repeat Fig I (Chorus), meas 3-16.
- 2/4 III. CHORUS
- A 1-16 Repeat Fig I, Chorus with new ptrs but on meas 1-2 W dance meas 3-4 of Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.

3/8 IV. PASSAGE DES FILLES (WOMEN PROGRESS CW)
(pah-SAHZH day FEE)

B 1-16 M: Dance 4 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé steps.

W: Meas 1-2: Dance meas 3-4 of Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.

Meas 3-6: Dance 1 Pas de Bourrée Épaulé but on meas 5-6 pass M that is to L (when facing ctr).

Meas 7-14: Repeat meas 3-6 twice passing a M each time (3 in all).

Meas 15-16: Dance meas 1-2 of Pas de Bourrée Épaulé.

2/4 V. CHORUS

A 1-16 Repeat fig III, Chorus but on meas 1-2 W pass one more M (this makes 4 total).
Dancers are now back with orig ptrs.

3/8 VI. LE TISSAGE (WEAVING)
(luh tee-SAHZH)

B 1-16 M and W alternate passing. M dance Fig II and W dance Fig IV. Each time you progress, you will pass the same person. The whole circle will move CW. W ends in ctr.

Description written February 1985.

