

Bourrées Bourbonnaises (France)

Bourrées Bourbonnaises (boo-RAY boor-buh-NEHZ) is a suite of three dances from Bourbonnais. This ancient province of France (actually the department of L'Allier) is located southeast of Berry. While there are similarities in music and pattern with the bourrees from Berry, the style is quite different. Each figure in the suite has named with reference to a dance pattern from Berry. Germain Hébert learned these dances from Veronique Esvan at the Heritage 1991 International Festival, Cornwall, Canada. Germain presented this suite at the 1993 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

CASSETTES: North/South Teacher's Seminar, G. Hébert, 1992 Side B/4;
Chants et Danses des Provinces Francaises, G. Hébert
Stockton 1993 Side A/5. 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Couples in longways formation*, partners 4 or 5 ft apart.

STEPS: Bourrée Pattern (4 meas to complete):
Meas 1: Step fwd on L ft using a large step (ct 1); bring R ft near L ft without taking wt (ct 2).
Meas 2: Step R,L,R on the spot (cts 1,&,2).
Meas 3: Step bkwd on L ft using a large step (ct 1); bring R ft near L ft without taking wt (ct 2).
Meas 4: Small step bkwd on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft near R ft (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2).

STYLING: The body is erect, arms hang naturally at the sides. Movements are smooth and flat. Steps are taken on the full ft. Knees are kept slightly flexed and close together throughout (not spread apart as in Berry style).

* Described in Steps & Styling, published by the Folk Dance Fed. of CA, Inc.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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Chord INTRODUCTION No action. Germain suggests waiting 4 meas and then dancing Bourree Droite only 3 times to begin.

A. BOURREE DROITE

I. AVANT-DEUX (fwd and back)

1-16 Dance Bourree Pattern four times. On meas 16 turn 1/4 CW to end with L shldr twd ptr.

II. CROISEMENTS (crossing over)

1 Moving twd ptr, step fwd on L ft with a large step and turn 1/2 CCW to be face to face with pt (ct 1); bring R ft near L ft without taking wt (ct 2).

2 Move sdwd to own R with small steps R,L,R (cts 1,&,2) clearing L shldrs.

- 3 Step on L ft across in front of R and, turn 3/4 CW to face ptr (ct 1); bring R ft near L ft without taking wt (ct 2).
- 4 Step R,L,R on the spot turning 1/4 CW to end with L shldr twd ptr (ctl, &, 2).
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times but end meas 16 facing ptr.

B. AUVERGNATE

I. AVANT-DEUX

- 1 Dance meas 1 of Bourree Pattern stepping diag fwd L on ct 1 so as to have R shldrs adjacent.
- 2-4 Dance meas 2-4 of Bourree Pattern.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 but stepping diag fwd R (meas 5) so as to have L shldrs adjacent .
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. During meas 16 turn 1/4 CW so L shldr is twd ptr.

II. CROISEMENTS

- 1-16 Repeat Fig II of BOURREE DROITE, the Croisements.

C. HAUT-BERRY

I. AVANT-DEUX DU HAUT-BERRY (Upper Berry)

- 1 Step fwd on L using a large step (ct 1); raise L heel (modified hop) while bringing R ft over L, close to the floor (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R ft across in front of L (ct 1); step on L ft slightly bkwd (ct &); step on R ft beside L (ct 2).
- 3-4 Dance meas 3-4 of Bourree Pattern.
- 5-16 Dance meas 1-4 three times. During meas 16 turn 1/4 CW so L shldr is twd ptr.

II. CROISEMENTS DU HAUT-BERRY

- 1 Step fwd a large step on L ft to pass ptr and pivot 3/4 CCW to end facing ptr on ptrs original side (ct 1); bring R ft near L ft without taking wt (ct 2).
- 2-4 Dance meas 2-4 of Bourree Pattern. On meas 4 turn 1/4 CW to end L shldr twd ptr.
Note: If the distance between ptrs is too great to allow an easy pivot on meas 1, move up little twd ptr on the preceding meas.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three times but end meas 16 facing ptr.

DANCE SEQUENCE: (as suggested by Germain)
Bourree Droite - two times
Auvergnate - two times
Haut-Berry - three times