

LITTLE MAN IN A FIX

(Denmark)

Little Man in a Fix (Bitte Mand i Knibe) is reported to have originated in the vicinity of Randers, Jutland. It has enjoyed widespread popularity not only in Denmark, but in other lands as well.

There seems to be little difference in opinion as to how the dance is done. There are many sources containing detailed descriptions. Some of these are direct translations from the Danish.

MUSIC: Record: Victor 20449-A; Folk Dancer 1054
Piano: See Ref. 6, 12, 16, 17, 402.

FORMATION: Two couples dancing together. Facing in opposite directions, the men hook L elbows. Men have R arms around their partner's waists; ladies have their L hands resting on their partner's R shoulders. Free hands on hips. M & W may join R hands and place them at W R waist.

STEPS: Running step*, Tyrolian waltz step*, waltz step*.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measure

A 1-8

I. RUNNING

Couples run fwd 24 steps in counter-clockwise circle. Slight accent on 1st ct of each meas.

1-8

With no pause, M join L hands, as each takes his partner's L hand in his R. M make an arch with their L arms. W both run through arch passing in front of their respective partners. W turn L about to face each other and join their R hands above those of the M. With arms crossed, continue to run counter-clockwise.

B 9-12

II. WALTZING

Couples break apart, each M holding partner's L hand in his R. Balance 4 times with Tyrolian Waltz step (fwd, bwd, fwd, bwd).

13-16

Taking closed waltz position, couples proceed at random about the floor with 4 waltz steps. (Variation: the two couples may revolve about each other in a small counter-clockwise circle, keeping close together. M may take opp W for waltz).

9-16

Repeat action of Fig II.

repeated

Each couple then seeks a new couple with whom to repeat the entire pattern. An odd number of couples will add to the interest of the dance, as then with each repetition there is always one "little man in a fix" without a partner couple. (Variation: When couples have revolved around each other in the closed waltz, they repeat the dance over and over with the same couple.)

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