

La Danse des Mouchoirs

(Quebec, Canada)

La Danse des Mouchoirs (lah DAHNSS day moo-SHWAHR) is a dance for trios from Ile-aux-Coudres, Charlevoix region. The first part was originally danced to vocal music only. Traditionally the middle person (usually a man) held a handkerchief (mouchoir) in each hand to connect with the outside persons (usually women), rather than joining hands with them. The second part is more modern, done to instrumental music. It is a lively reel inspired by the "Set à crochets" type of dance using elbow turns. The dance was presented by France and Yves Moreau at the 1997 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp at Stockton, CA.

Cassette: Yves Moreau, YM-UOP-97, Side B/3. 2/4 meter

Formation: Trio facing trio, aligned along the radii of a large circle (like the spokes of a wheel), such that trios face LOD or RLOD (CCW or CW). Center dancer holds a corner of a handkerchief in each hand in W-pos. Outside dancers take the opp corner of the handkerchief with nearer hand in W-pos; free hand at side.

Steps and Styling: Skip* (2 to a meas). Used as the basic step throughout Fig I. Skipping steps are small.

Walk* (2 to a meas). Steps are light and bouncy.

Two-Step* (1 to a meas).

Usually all beg on R ft in French Canadian dances, but may beg with either ft.

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

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
3 cts	<u>INTRODUCTION.</u> (recording has foot tapping) No action.	
	I. <u>ORIGINAL PATTERN</u>	
1-2	All trios dance fwd twd opp trio with 4 skipping steps.	
3-4	All trios dance bkwd to orig place with 4 skipping steps.	
5-8	Repeat meas 1-4.	
9-12	Ctr dancer in each trio raise L arm and lead R-hand dancer under the arch (as in "Troika") and back to place, ctr dancer following, without releasing handkerchief hold. L-hand dancer skip in place.	
13-16	Repeat meas 9-12 with ctr dancer raising R arm and leading L-hand dancer under the arch. R-hand dancer skip in place.	

La Danse des Mouchoirs—continued

- 17-18 Progression: All trios dance fwd with larger skipping steps to meet a new trio, each dancer passing dancer by R shldr. During pass through, ctr dancer hold handkerchiefs; outside dancers momentarily drop handkerchief, pass through, and recover it. Bow to new trio.
- 19-20 All trios dance bkwd with 4 skipping steps.
- 21-32 Repeat meas 5-16.
- 33-96 Repeat meas 17-32 four more times. (Fig I is danced 6 times in all.)

II. SET À CROCHETS

Ctr dancer finds a place for the handkerchiefs, tucking them into a belt or pockets as Fig II begins.

- 1-4 Join hands about shldr height with opp trio to form a small circle and circle L with 8 walking steps.
- 5-8 Circle R with 8 walking steps.
- 9-12 In the small circle, all walk into the middle with 4 steps and out with 4 steps.
- 13-16 Repeat meas 9-12. Trios end as spokes of the wheel.
- 17-20 Ctr dancer hook R elbow with R-hand dancer; turn once CW with 8 walking steps.
- 21-24 Repeat meas 17-20 with L elbow and L-hand dancer; turn once CCW with 8 walking steps.
- 25-26 Dancer on R of each ctr dancer give R hands and trade places with 2 two-steps diag across the set.
- 27-28 Repeat meas 25-25 with dancer on L of each ctr dancer giving R hands and trading diag across the set.
- 29-30 Repeat meas 25-26 with ctr two dancers giving R hands and trading across the set.
- 31-32 Ctr dancer salute R and L outside dancer in turn with small bow from the hips.
- 33-40 Repeat meas 25-32 to return to orig places.

Repeat Fig II until end of music (two more times with this recording).

Fig II has no progression.

Lyrics: Mon compère que diriez-vous,
Si ma commère couchait avec vous? (2x)

Je dirais oui je dirais hon,
La soupe au boeuf faite à l'oignon (2x)