

Schuhplattler Laendler

(Austria)

The Schuhplattler (SHOO-plaht-ler LEND-ler) from the Austrian Tyrol is widely danced throughout Austria and Bavaria. The styling and step patterns vary with the men plattling, flirting and dancing with the women.

Traditionally the women do not participate in the men's plattles but twirl by themselves and let the men show off. Dance teams perform complicated routines going from village to village entertaining at weddings and festivals. Sometimes the young men would crash the parties, and the mock fights would become real. The antics of the men are an imitation of the mating dance of the blackcock, a large game bird. This version was choreographed by Grace West and presented by her at the 1949 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

Grace based the choreography on various written sources, and on eyewitness descriptions.

RECORD: Victor 25-4097 'Steirischer Landler'; 3/4 meter
Victor EPA 4127 Side A/1 'Bavarian Landler';
Victor LPM 1619 Side A/3 'Bavarian Landler'

FORMATION: Cpls in a circle or at random about the room, facing ptr, MR,WL hand joined, M outside hands on suspenders, hips, or free. W free hands on hips, fingers fwd.

STEPS and STYLING: Leap*, waltz balance*, hop*, run*, waltz*. The waltz in a peasant styling is vigorous and free, with heavy accent on the first ct.
W on the turns may use either waltz or 2 steps, pivoting on first step (cts 1,3).

PLATTLE: (8 meas) The cue for counting is 1,2,3,4,5,6 1,&,2,&,3,&,4,&,5,&,6,& - 1,2,3,4,5,6, 1,&,2,&,3,&,4 with strong emphasis on last ct 4; hold ct 5-6.

Variations on the plattle theme are countless. Only three are given in the dance pattern, but any one may be used for all plattles if desired and coordinated with the W actions. M hands are held high, palms fwd, quite straight and body kept erect. The ft and legs are raised for the action to prevent bending over.

DISHRAG TURN (2 meas): Without releasing hands, both turn once individually in direction described. Start with joined hands low and swing them fwd twd designated direction and upwards overhead. Halfway through turn, arms are high overhead, and dancers are back to back with ptr. Complete turn to face ptr, bringing hands down low in front.

M may shout frequently. W emphasize turns which whirl the petticoats, and the M should pay attention to what may be revealed. Landler are usually done free style and danced at the whim of the dancer.

The positions also vary, and the ones described in this version are only some of the many that may be used.

Use waltz step throughout unless otherwise directed.

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MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

4 meas INTRODUCTION M leads W and both run shouting onto floor. Or if already on floor, lean away and shout.

A I. BALANCE, TURN, WALTZ

1 Maintaining same handhold, step on outside ft, ML,WR, moving slightly fwd LOD (ct 1); swing inside ft fwd, turning away from ptr, or slightly back to back (ct 2); hop on outside ft (ct 3).

2 Repeat meas 1 on opp ftwk, turning slightly face to face.

3-4 Beg ML,WR, M waltz forward LOD, W turn 2 or 3 times CW under joined hands.

5 Waltz balance away from ptr with 1 waltz step.

6 Waltz balance twd ptr.

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- 7-8 Repeat meas 3-4
 9-10 Repeat meas 5-6
 11-12 Releasing hands, turn once individually M CCW, W CW.
 13-14 In shldr-waist pos, waltz turn CW, progressing CCW around the floor.
 15 Both stand in place, wt on both ft. Bend both knees as M prepare to lift the W.
 16 M lift W, as W push upward with both hands and jump as high as possible (ct 1); M lower W carefully (ct 3).
 A 1-16 Repeat meas 1-16 except meas 1-2 are not step-hops but become a balance away and twd ptr as in meas 5-6. End facing ptr, M out, W in, W hands on hips.

FIRST PLATTLE

- | | | | |
|-------|-----|---|---------------------|
| | ct | M: | W: |
| B 1 | 1 | Stamp R. May clap in front of chest | Turn once CW. (RLR) |
| | 2 | Raise L leg high, clap under it, hop R. | |
| | 3 | Clap in front. | |
| | 4 | Clap R with W. | Clap R with M. |
| | 5 | Clap L with W. | Clap L with M. |
| | 6 | Clap own in front of chest. | Clap own in front. |
| | 1 | Raise L leg, thigh level. | Turn once CW. (RLR) |
| | & | Hit R thigh with R palm, hop R. | |
| | & | Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | 2 | Hit R thigh with R palm, hop R. | |
| | & | Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | 3 | Raise L leg high across in front of R. | |
| | & | Slap L sole with R palm, hop R. | |
| | & | Step L, Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | 4 | Raise R leg, thigh level. | Turn once CW. (LRL) |
| | & | Hit R thigh with R palm, hop L. | |
| | & | Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | 5 | Hit R thigh with R palm, hop L. | |
| | & | Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | 6 | Raise R leg high across in front of L. | |
| | & | Hit inside of R knee with R palm, hop L. | |
| | & | Slap inside of R shoe with L palm. | |
| | 5-7 | Repeat meas 1-3 of Plattle. | |
| | 8 | M clap hands in front, stamp R (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3). W turn once CW (RLR). | |
| B 1-8 | | Repeat meas 1-8, except during meas 3-5, W dance 9 running steps CCW around M just in time to clap R and L on meas 6. W again circle M once in 6 running steps. On last meas M turn slightly CW and join both hands with ptr. | |

II. BEHIND-THE-NECK-TURN

- A 1-8 Face ptr and turn to R hips adjacent, raise joined hands and lower R over ptr head (L over own) to rest on back of neck, upper arms parallel to floor, In this pos turn CW.
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with L hips adjacent, changing hands to reverse pos and turn CCW. On last meas, bring hands back to normal pos.

III. DISHRAG TURN

- A 1-8 Face ptr, hands still joined but held low. Do 4 Dishrag Turns M CCW, W CW, progressing slightly in LOD.
 9-16 Release hands, assume cross-back pos*. In this pos waltz fwd, turning CW.

B SECOND PLATTLE

- | | | | |
|--|----|--|------------|
| | ct | M: | W: |
| | 1 | Go down on L knee, clap in front of R. | Balance L. |
| | 2 | Clap under R knee. | |
| | 3 | Rise; clap in front of chest. | |
| | | Beg to raise L leg. | |
| | 4 | Raise L leg, clap under it. | Balance R. |
| | 5 | Leap onto L, kicking R fwd; clap overhead. | |
| | 6 | Jump to stride pos, ft apart, hands on hips. | |

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|---|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 | 1 | Stand in place watching W. | Hit R thigh with R palm. |
| | & | | Hit L thigh with L palm. |
| | 2 | | Hit R thigh with R palm. |
| | & | | Hit L thigh with L palm. |
| | 3 | | Clap own in front. |
| | & | | |
| 4 | 4 | M hold both hands out to W, | Clap R on M L. |
| | & | palms up. | Clap L on M R. |
| | 5 | | Clap R on M L. |
| | & | | Clap L on M R. |
| | 6 | | Clap own in front. |
| | & | | |

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, except that on meas 8, ct 6, W swings R hand as though to slap M face. M holds out hands as before, but ducks bkwd on last ct. M claps hands close at R waist to fake being slapped.

B 1-8 Repeat meas 1-8.

IV. CHASE

- A 1-4 Hands on hips, W move away from M, stepping on cts 1,3, turning CW, progressing LOD. M chase after her, leaning over, clapping hands low, and trying to flip her skirts.
- 5-8 M stands in place, hands on hips, watching W as she continues turning fwd LOD for 2 more meas. Then noticing that M is no longer chasing, W runs 6 steps back to M with arms out-stretched.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

V. EMBRACE

- A 1-2 Face ptr and join both hands. M turn W 1/2 CW by raising MR, WL up and over her head and pulling W over to M L side, as he tries to kiss her.
- 3-4 M turns W once CCW into same embrace pos but to MR side.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 9-16 Repeat Fig I, meas 9-16. On meas 9, release ML,WR hands, W rolls out of embrace and turns once CW on balance away.

THIRD PLATTLE

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|-----|---|--|------------------------------------|
| B | 1 | ct M: | W: |
| | 1 | Jump, clap own in front. | Balance L. |
| | 2 | Go down on R knee, clap in back. | |
| | 3 | Clap in front | |
| | 2 | 4 Hit floor with R palm. | Balance R. |
| | | 5 Hit R thigh with R palm. | |
| | | 6 Clap in front. | |
| | 3 | 1 Keep head down during this meas. | Stamping step L. |
| | | Hit L hip with L palm. | |
| | | & Hit floor with R palm. | |
| | | 2 Hit floor with L palm. | |
| | | & Hit floor with R palm. | |
| | | 3 Hit floor with L palm. | Cross R ft over L and pivot turn |
| | | & Strike floor with R palm. | once CCW. |
| | 4 | 4 Rise during this meas. | Step RLR in place, or just step R. |
| | | Hit L knee with R palm. | |
| | | & Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | | 5 Hit R thigh with R palm. | |
| | | & Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| | | 6 Hit R thigh with R palm. | |
| | | & Hit L thigh with L palm. | |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas 1-4, except that M on meas 7, ct 3&, hit L knee with R hand and rise quickly with a loud clap in front on meas 8 (ct 4); hold (cts 5-6). | |

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- B 1-4 Repeat meas 1-4.
- 5-6 Assume shldr-waist pos* and waltz turning once CW, progressing in LOD.
- 7 Slide hands down arms to join both hands. M turn W 3/4 CW under raised ML,WR.
- 8 M kneel on L knee, facing LOD, W RLOD. Pose with ML, WR behind M head, and MR, WL, behind W back.

Description written July 1984.

