

LES MOUCHOIRS (lay moo-SHWAR)
(France)

A trio dance from Vendée (Lower-Poitou). It belongs to the "Maraichine" (mah-rah-SHEEN) family. Learned from Michel Piot in Pont-Chrétien, Easter, 1972.

Music: Record: Monitor LP 491, Side 2, Band 3. 2/4 meter.

Formation: 1 M between 2 W. All trios face same way - head of hall, or ctr of circle. A handkerchief is held by diagonal corners between M and each W. Hands down at sides.

Steps: Basic Step ("Maraichine") 4 meas to complete.

Meas 1 Stamp fwd on R (ct 1). Hop on R, lift L ft fwd (knee bent) and slightly across R, body turns slightly to R (ct 2).

Meas 2 Step bkwd on L (ct 1). Step bkwd on R (ct &). Step bkwd on L (ct 2).

Meas 3 Step bkwd on R (ct 1). Hop on R, lift L ft, knee bent, body turns again slightly to R (ct 2).

Meas 4 Step fwd on L (ct 1). Step fwd on R (ct &). Step fwd on L (ct 2).

When moving bkwd, the R ft describes two small CW 1/2 circles on the floor (as the number "3"). The pattern is retraced when moving fwd.

The vigorous stamp used to start the dance becomes a step-hop as the dance is repeated.

Arms swing rhythmically bkwd on ct 1, fwd on ct 2, with a sharp bend of the elbows when hopping on R.

Meas
1-8

Pattern

Introduction - no action.

1-4

FIGURE I - AVANT-DEUX

Basic Step moving bkwd and fwd.

5-16

Repeat action of meas 1-4, three more times.

FIGURE II - ARCHES

Basic Step, without knee lift and circling of ft, is used throughout this Fig. (Step, hop; step, step, step) (cts 1, 2, 1, &, 2).

1-2

W #1 (to R of M) goes under the arch formed by M L arm and

3-4

W #2 arm. M and W #2 dance step also and the trio moves bkwd. As W #1 completes her turn around M, M goes under the same arch, W #2 dances the step and the trio moves fwd.

5-6

W #2 goes under the same arch. M and W #1 dance the step and the trio moves bkwd.

7-8

The trio moves fwd.

Repeat dance from the beginning with W #2 active first.

Presented by Louise and Germain Hébert