

LA DANSE DU BALLAIS
(The Broom Dance)

Simple Version

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This dance is more a play (game) than a dance and it is done normally by men. It was probably brought to Canada by French soldiers three or four hundred years ago. As they went to war in Eastern Europe, they may have exchanged dances with foreign soldiers. The same dance exists in Lithuania with some slight differences.

Formation: Any number of cpls, or men, in a circle facing ctr. M are holding a broom in R hand.

Music: Any good French-Canadian Reel can be used but it must be slow. 4/4 meter.

Steps: A. Pas de gigue-simple

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	
1	&	Brush R ft fwd
	ah	Brush R ft bkwd
	1	Step R ft in place
	&, ah, 2	Same as ct 1, but with L ft
	&, ah, 3	Same as ct 1
	&	Step L in place
	4	Step R in place and pause

Next step begins L.

B. Passe-Ballais (Chorus)

	<u>Step for M</u>	
1	1	Step R ft in place
	&	Hop on R, passing broom from R hand to L hand under raised L leg
	2	Step L ft in place
	&	Hop on L, passing broom from L hand to R hand under raised R leg
	3, &	Repeat ct 1, &
	4, &	Repeat ct 2, &
	4 steps per meas.	

	<u>Step for W</u>	M holds broom in front of ptr (bristles on floor)
1	1	Step R ft to L side of broom
	&	Hop on R while bringing L around and in front
	2	Step L ft to R side of broom
	&	Hop on L while bringing R around and in front
	3-4	Repeat action of meas 1-2
	4 steps per meas	

C. Pas d'accord

1	1	Step to R with R ft (bend knee a little)
	&	Close L ft to R, rising on balls of ft
	2	Step R ft in place (bend knee a little)
	3, &, 4	Repeat cts 1 & 2, with L ft
	2 steps per meas	

LA DANSE DU BALLAIS (continued)

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
	<u>FIG I.</u>
1-4	All dance 4 "A" steps in place.
	<u>CHORUS</u>
	<u>W:</u>
1-4	Dance 8 "C" steps in place
5-8	Dance 16 "B" steps
	<u>M:</u>
1-3	Dance 12 "B" steps facing ctr
4	Put broom in front of ptr.
5-8	Hold broom for ptr.
	<u>FIG II.</u>
1-2	Turning to face LOD, dance 2 "A" steps moving fwd, but turn to face RLOD on the last 2 steps.
3-4	Dance 2 "A" steps in RLOD, finish facing ctr.
1-8	<u>CHORUS</u> - Repeat exactly.
	<u>FIG III.</u>
1-4	Dance 4 "A" steps turning CW.
1-8	<u>CHORUS</u> - Repeat exactly
	<u>FIG IV.</u>
1-4	Dance 4 "A" steps turning CCW.
1-8	<u>CHORUS</u> - Repeat exactly
	<u>FIG V.</u>
1-2	Dance 2 "A" steps twd ctr.
3-4	Dance 2 "A" steps bkwd to place
1-8	<u>CHORUS</u> - Repeat exactly
	<u>FIG VI.</u>
1-4	In ballroom pos swing with ptr, holding broom with joined hands.

Presented by Michel St-Louis