

Les mains blanches

(French Canada)

This dance is done in various regions of Quebec. This version is from the Lanaudiere region, northeast of Montreal. The "*mains blanches*" in this version, refers to the people forming a "trio." This is a shortened version of the complete dance in which all cpls become active.

Translation: The white hands.

Pronunciation: lay mehn BLAWNSH

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Yves & France Moreau Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009*, Band 11.

Formation: Four (4) cpls in a square.

Steps and Styling: Balance: Step on one ft and swing the other across in front; repeat alternating ft.

Either ft can start.

Swing: Pts face each other directly, not to one side or the other.

Meas Music: 2/4 meter Pattern

INTRODUCTION Instrumental music.

- 1-4 No action.
- 5-8 Bow to ptr, bow to corner.

I. OPENING FIGURE

- 9-13 Join hands in W-pos slightly above waist level and circle to L.
- 13-16 Circle to R.
- 17-24 With ptr, balance (R and L ft) and swing.
- 25-32 Promenade ptr around set (CCW) in shldr-waist pos.

II. BASIC FIGURE (les mains blanches)

- 1-8 Cpl 1 and cpl 2 circle L and R, M1 leaves his ptr with cpl 2.
- 9-16 M1 with cpl 3 circle L and R.
- 17-24 M1 and W3 balance and swing in ctr.
- 25-32 M1 and W3 with cpl 4, circle L and R, M1 leaves W3 with cpl 4.
- 33-36 The trios ("*mains blanches*") present fwd and back and M1 and M3 exchange place passing L shldr while trios go bkwd.
- 37-40 Trios present and W exchange place going to side M. (W on L passes under arch like in "Troika" figure), while the trios go back.
- 41-44 Trios present and lone M exchange places (walk passing L shldrs or chassé).
- 45-48 Trios present and W exchange place to side M.
- 49-52 Trios present and lone M exchange places (walk passing L shldrs or chassé).
- 53-56 Trios present and W exchange places to side M.
- 57-60 Trios present and lone M exchange places (walk passing L shldrs or chassé).
- 61-64 Trios present and W exchange places to side M, everybody is now back home.

Les mains blanches—continued

III. TRANSITION

- 1-16 Turn corner with L hand (full turn) and do a Grand R and L all the way around.
 17-32 All cpls balance, swing, and promenade

IV. BASIC FIGURE WITH COUPLE 2 ACTIVE

- 1-64 Basic figure repeats with cpl 2 going to cpl 3, etc.

V. TRANSITION

- 1-32 Repeat Fig III.

VI. FINALE

- 1-8 All join hands. All go in and out twice. At end of second time, M turn W CW with a courtesy turn leaving W in middle, facing out.
 9-16 All M walk around W CW back to ptr. W can clap.
 17-32 All cpls balance, swing, and promenade.

Note: In French-Canadian set dances, it is hard to define exactly how many meas are used in each figure. People do not follow 8 or 16 ct music phrases. They more or less follow the caller's cues and just make sure they describe each required pattern. Live music allows for more flexibility. The suggested number of meas indicated above is approximate and are suggestions to match the recording used. If a set finishes before the others, they clap until everyone is finished.

Presented by France Bourque-Moreau