

THE BEER MAKERS' DANCE

Dance for Three Girls  
(Nigeria)

In many parts of Nigeria, including the North, beer is made out of guinea corn. Three girls, pounding the corn, produce the rhythm with the pestles striking against the mortar.

The dance has two separate patterns done simultaneously.

Rhythm: 3/4 even beats. Non-participants clap sometimes to join in the rhythm production.

Formation: A triangle with 2 girls at the back. After every 32rmeas the girls rotate CCW so that there is a new dancer in front.

Meas Pattern I. For back dancers

- 1 Short leap to L (ct 1). Tap R in front twice (cts 2,3).
- 2 Short leap R (ct 1). Tap L in front twice (cts 2,3).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2.
- 5 Jump 1/4 turn (ct 1). Girl on back L turn L (CCW); girl on back R turn R (CW). Hold (cts 2,3).
- 6 Hold (cts 1,2,3).
- 7-24 Repeat action of meas 1-6 three more times.

Pattern II. For front dancer

- 1 Step R in front of L, body turns slightly L (ct 1). Step L at back in place (ct 2). Close R to L facing fwd (ct 3).
- 2 Step L in front of R, body turns slightly R (ct 1). Step R at back in place (ct 2). Close L to R facing fwd (ct 3).
- 3-4 Repeat action of Pattern I, meas 1-2.
- 5 Jump 1/4 turn CCW (ct 1), hold (cts 2,3).
- 6 Hold (cts 1,2,3).
- 7-24 Repeat action of Pattern II, meas 1-6 three more times.

Pattern III.

- 1-4 Back dancers repeat action of Pattern I, meas 1-4.  
Front dancer repeats action of Pattern II, meas 1-4.
- 5 Back dancers entwine inside arms at shoulder level and get outside arms ready to catch front girl when she falls back.  
Front girl falls back onto arms of back girls.
- 6 Front girl recovers pos.
- 7-8 Girls rotate CCW with 3 steps R,L,R (cts 1,2,3), and hold (cts 1,2,3).

Repeat dance from beginning.

Presented by Joseph Ayewusi