

L I T T L E   M A N   I N   A   F I X

Danish Folk Dance for 2 couples      Record MH 1054

The Danish name for this dance is "Bitte Mand i Knibe". This has been a favorite with folk dancers everywhere.

**FORMATION:** Couples standing side by side, scattered all over the floor and facing another couple. If there is an extra couple, that couple is the "Little man in a fix". It is not necessary to have an extra couple to do the dance, however.

**PART 1:** Couple run forward towards each other and the men hook left elbows. The men have their right hand around their partners' waists..lady has left hand on man's shoulder. In this position both couples turn in a place with light running steps counterclockwise for 16 steps. (DO NOT USE A GOOSEKICK STEP OR STAMP, just run lightly).

**PART 2:** The two men release hooked elbows and join left hands only at the same time take arm from around lady's waist and just hold her hand. The two ladies now run under the arch formed by the men, both moving counterclockwise until they get through the arch, then turning to own partner face center of their own set and both girls join right hands across the set. In this position, the whole set now runs lightly around counterclockwise. The whole figure take 16 steps to do.

**PART 3:** Partners join inside hands (man's right - left of lady) and beginning with the outside foot (mans left, lady's right), do 4 open waltz steps anywhere around the room. In doing this they turn slightly face to face and back to back, but very slightly and move around the room at will. Then they take ballroom position and do 4 more waltz steps around the room. Now open up again into a side-by-side position and do 4 more open waltz steps, and then take ballroom position again and do 4 closed waltz steps.

As couples are doing the last part, they are looking around for another couple they might like to dance with, so at the end of the dance, each couple runs forward to a new couple and begins the dance again with them. An attempt should be made not to dance twice with the same couple, unless the group is an extremely small one.

If you have an extra couple (they wait once out) and then steal a couple in the next repeat of the dance by getting in and doing the open and closed waltz.

In Denmark, sometimes the ladies feet are sent flying off the floor during the first part of the dance. It is recommended that this feature be eliminated unless you have a group of very good dancers, who will be careful and take the proper position to do the figure this way. Otherwise, ribs may be broken. It is also not wise to do this if you have a crowded floor as the flailing feet may hit some other couple on the floor. The March, 1943 issue of THE FOLK DANCER magazine contains data on the proper position with photograph for the figure if you want to have the ladies fly out in Part 1.