

BLACK EARTH CIRCLE
(Schwarzerdner Gemeinschaftstanz)

A new German folk dance, created around 1951 by a group of enthusiastic folk dancers.

Record: Will be released soon on Folk Dance Label.

Formation: An even number of couples in a circle facing the center joining hands and extending arms.

Steps: Three steps.

PAUL AND GRETEL DUNSING-German Weekend-Miami Valley Folk Dancers
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BLACK EARTH CIRCLE Cont'd

- A. Meas. 1-7 Circle CW beginning on left foot.
 8 Change direction by stepping in place.
 1-7 (Repetition) Circle CCW
 8 Keep inner hands joined with own partner and turn to face the next couple. (At the beginning of the dance designate which two couples are dancing together.)
- B. Meas. 1 Couples facing CW form an arch by raising their joined inside hands and walk forward; couples facing CCW walk forward under the arch at the same time.
 2 All drop hands, turn half around by facing own partner first, and join other hands.
 3-4 Return to place same way; this time the other couple is forming the arch.
 5 Repeat Meas. 1
 6. DO NOT turn but walk forward toward the oncoming couple.
 7-8 Circle half CW
 1-8 (repetition) As above from new position
 Remember that couples facing CW are forming the arch first. At the end all return to their places and join hands in the circle as in the beginning.
- C. Meas. 1-2 M leads W from his right hand to his left hand. At the end of the first measure they are momentarily opposite each other with both hands joined, arms extended, and weight balanced backward. M step-close-step left backward (meas. 1) and then right fwd. (meas 2.).
 W. three step L fwd with a half turn L (meas. 1) and then R bwd with a half turn L (meas. 2). W has shifted one position CW in the circle.
 3-8 Repeat as above 3 more times
 1-8 (repetition) Repeat as above. All together there are 8 shifts.
 1-8 Ending circle CW and CCW as in the beginning. On Meas. 7 of the repetition all three step left forward toward the center of the circle and on Meas. 8 ct. 1 and 2 finish with a step-close R fwd.

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QUEEN OF HEARTS

Source: This is one of a group of dances called "Barsbuettler Taenze". They evolved under the leadership of Karl Lorenz in 1948 at the "Jugendhof Barsbuettel" near Hamburg. Barsbuettel is perhaps the closest German counterpart to our American folk camps but on a much wider scope involving courses in youth leadership training. Perhaps it also can be said that this is a further and the youngest attempt to create a new German dance culture which might be more broadly acceptable to the people. The social aspect is emphasized by starting and ending in a common circle, by partner changes, and by the awareness of others in the circle. Karl Lorenz started as a music teacher at Barsbuettel and he has composed the music to these dances. He claims that his knowledge of the dance was limited at first and one gets the idea that it all started with much group experimentation.