

# BOURRÉE DROITE

(France)

A bourrée in 3/8 rhythm from Berry in the center of France. This is a "generic" bourrée that could be done to any bourrée music from Berry in 3/8 time. The nature of the dance is improvisational — a basic Avance-Recule (forward and back step) alternating with a Croisement (crossing over step). One can improvise during the Avance-Recule step by substituting different patterns. The description below is just a suggestion of possibilities one might want to do during the dance. It is not to be interpreted as a set pattern with Figure 1, Figure 2, etc.

CASSETTE: LO DRAC/LE SOLEIL. Side 2, Band 3, "Suite des Bourrées Croisées"

FORMATION: Couples facing each other in long "contra" lines, one's partner opposite, "face a face."

## STEPS &

STYLING: The basic styling is very flat, with steps taken on the full ft. Knees are slightly bent throughout. Arms are relaxed at sides. There is a "gliding" quality to the movements with a slight downward accent on ct 1 of the décalage step. There is a certain reserve and intensity happening simultaneously in these bourrées. Footwork is the same for both men and women.

RHYTHM: 3/8

---

Music 3/8

PATTERN

---

Measures

8+ INTRODUCTION

PART A - Avance-Recule

1-4 Meas. 1: Step fwd on L (ct 1); step R beside L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).  
Meas. 2: Décalage back: Step on R in place, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach back with L (ct 1 ); step back on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).  
Meas. 3: Step back on L (ct 1 ); step on R beside L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).  
Meas. 4: Décalage Fwd: Step on R beside L, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach fwd with L (ct 1); step fwd on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).

5-16 Repeat measures 1-4 three more times.

PART B - CROISEMENT

- 1-4 Meas. 1-2: Facing opp dancer, travel fwd starting with L ft: step fwd on L (ct 1 ), step slightly fwd on R ft (ct 2); step on L ft slightly fwd (ct 3). Repeat with opp ftwk (cts 4-5). You will pass shldr with opp dancer.  
Meas. 3: Reaching around with L ft, step on L turning 1/2 turn CW (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).  
Meas. 4: Décalage fwd: step on R beside L, bending the R knee more than usual and starting to reach fwd with L (ct 1 ); step fwd on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).

5-16 Repeat meas. 1-4 three more times.

VARIATION 1 - R shldr/L shldr

- 1-4 Do Avance-Recule step but end up R shldr to R shldr with opp dancer on meas 1-2.
- 5-8 Do Avance-Recule step but end up L shldr to L shldr with opp dancer on meas 5-6.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 above.

VARIATION 2 - Épingle à cheveux

- 1-4 In place of Avance-Recule step, do an épingle à cheveux (hair-pin turn) as follows:  
Meas. 1: Beginning with L shldr facing opp dancer, step on L sdwd L, turning 1/2 turn CCW (ct 1); step R beside L (ct 2); step on L in place (ct 3).  
Meas. 2: Décalage: step on R beside L, bending R knee more than usual and starting to reach to L side with L (ct 1 ); step sdwd L on L (ct 2); step on R beside L (ct 3).  
Meas. 3: Repeat meas 1. (Dancers end up facing original direction)  
Meas. 4: Repeat meas 2.
- 5-16 Repeat meas. 1-4 three more times.

\*Note: Dancers always alternate between the Avance-Recule step (or one of the variations) and the Croisement step. (The Avance-Recule is done to the melody A music and the Croisement is done to the melody B music.)

Dance description by Marilyn Smith Wathen