

Avant-Deux Du Poitou

Poitou – France

After the Bourrée, the Avant-Deux is a very widespread form of dance in several districts of Central and Western France. It is always done in contra line formation and the figures are prompted by a caller. In this recording, there is a small pause between repeats of the dance where the caller dedicates the next round to particular people: bride, mother-in-law etc.

Pronunciation: Ah-vahn Duh doo pwah-too

Rhythm: 2/4

Formation: Two fairly long lines of couples in "contra" formation (longways). Couple facing couple. The "opposite" is the person across from you. Woman on Man's right. Arms are free down at sides.

Basic step: Do a two-step (R, L, R) in a forward direction (cts 1, &, 2), hold (ct &). Strong step on L (ct 1). Slight hop on L while picking up R (ct 2). This step is done in forward and backward directions.

Buzz step: This is very much like a "Swing your partner" step

Slide: This is like a "chassé" or "gallop" step in ballroom position which travels forward and back.

Introduction: No introduction. Begin dance after caller shouts "...en avant-deux".

Figure 1: Avant-deux (basic step)

- 1-4 Do one basic step forward to opposite and one basic step back to place
- 5-8 Repeat measures 1-4
- 9-10 Do one basic step forward trading places (but staying close) with opposite person moving CW (passing right shoulders)
- 11-12 Do one basic step moving back (on opposite person's side)
- 13-16 Repeat measures 9-12, ending up in original place

Figure 2: Balancez (swing)

When caller says "balancez", all stamp 3 times (Right, Left, Right)

- 1-8 Do 16 buzz-swings with partner in ballroom position.

Figure 3: Rassemblez (present-slide)

When caller says "rassemblez", all stamp 3 times (Right, Left, Right)

- 1-2 Slide to opposite couple
- 3-4 Slide back to place
- 5-6 Repeat measures 1-2
- 7-8 Instead of sliding back to place, keep going forward, passing opposite couple on the left (women back-to-back), turn CW, to end up trading places with opposite couple.

Note: Listen for new "toast" by caller and begin dance after "...en avant-deux"