

# Le Cotillon

Québec – Canada

This dance is related to the old cotillons and quadrilles from France. It comes from Charlevoix County in Québec and is one of the few remaining cotillons still danced today in Québec. From original field research done by Guy Thomas.

**Rhythm:** 2/4

**Formation:** Four couples in a square formation. Closed ballroom position.

**Steps:** Steps include walking, two-steps, slides and swing. Style is elegant.

**Introduction:** 4 measures. Everyone bows to partner and to everyone else in the set.

## Figure 1: Circle Left

1-8 All join hands. With two-steps, circle left then right.

9-16 Everybody swings.

## Figure 2: Face-to-face and back-to-back

17-24 Cpl 1 faces each other and with slides, crosses over to cpl 3's position, alternating "face-to-face" and "back-to-back", and then returns to original place starting with "back-to-back". Meanwhile cpl 3 has crossed over with a "gallop-slide" step in ballroom position.

25-32 Repeat measures 17-24 reversing roles of cpl 1 and 3: Cpl 3 does "face-to-face" and "back-to-back" while cpl 1 slides through.

## Figure 3: Presentation

33-34 Same two cpls in ballroom position, present to centre with slide step.

35-36 Slide back to place

37-40 Repeat measures 33-36

41-48 Same two couples swing.

## Figure 4: Ladies star to right

49-52 With two-steps, all four ladies star with right hands

53-56 Back to place with left-hand star.

57-64 Everybody swings

**Repeat:** Couples 2 and 4 go through measures 17-64. But instead of a ladies' star (49-56), it's a men's star.

## Dance Conclusion:

1-8 All four couples present to centre with slide step as in Figure 3

9-16 Everybody swing

17-32 With two-steps, right hand to partner and "grand-right-and-left" all the way back home, stopping first to bow when meeting partner. When home, swing until end of music.

## Le Cotillon Lyrics

Déshabille-toi, lave-toi, je t'aime bien

Voilà de l'eau chaude, voilà de l'eau chaude

Déshabille-toi, lave-toi, je t'aime bien

Voilà de l'eau chaude pour prendre ton bain