

# Les P'tits Chars

Québec – Canada

This is a typical dance done in various regions of Québec. "P'tits chars" means little cars and actually refers to "tramway cars" (once much popular in cities like Montreal). France Bourque-Moreau learned this contra dance form from Normand Legault of Québec City.

**Pronunciation:** Lay-p'tee-shar

**Rhythm:** 2/4

**Formation:** Six couples in contra formation (long ways). Lines face head (front) of hall. Woman on Man's Right. Outside hands on shoulder of person in front, Man's inside hand around Woman's waist and Woman's inside hand on Man's Right shoulder.

## Part I

### Chorus: "Tram Car"

1-8 Everybody takes 8 steps forward and 8 steps backward

9-16 Repeat 1-8

### Figure 1: Women go down and up

1-8 Women follow lead woman who goes in front of men down the set on men's side and back up the set on women's side.

9-16 All couples, except Couple 1, make an arch with partner; Couple 1 dives under the arch and goes to the bottom of the set. Couples 2-6 move up one position.

### Repeat Chorus

### Figure 2: Men go down and up

1-8 Men follow lead man who goes in front of women down the set on women's side and back up the set on men's side.

9-16 Repeat Figure 1 measures 9-16

### Repeat Chorus

### Figure 3: Both Men & Women go down and up

1-8 Men follow lead man and women follow lead woman who both cast off down the set on their own side, then join and come back up at the same time.

9-16 Repeat Figure 1 measures 9-16

## Repeat Part I

## Part II

1-8 Everybody takes 8 steps forward and 8 steps backward

9-16 Everybody takes 8 steps forward and 4 steps backward. Separate and take 4 steps back into two lines facing each other

17-24 Two lines go forward and back, twice

15-32 Do Right then Left elbow turns with partner

33-40 Two lines go forward and back, twice

41-48 Do-si-do Right then Left shoulders with partner

49-56 Two lines go forward and back, twice

57-64 Swing partner