

Can Can
(France)

Commentary: This dance was made famous by the nightclubs of Paris, such as the Moulin Rouge. There was a day when the showing of a girl's legs was considered shocking, and public performances of this dance were against the law. Today, it is a popular and quite legal display of real dancing ability--and, incidentally, of pretty legs.

Formation: A line of girls facing the audience.

Step: Hopping on one foot while kicking with the other. Girls hold up the front of their skirts with both hands to expose their legs.

Measure Part I

1-4 Introduction: On the four-measure introduction, two lines of girls enter, one from the right, one from the left side of the stage. The girls do the running steps, the lines cross each other. Start on right foot. End in a straight line facing the audience. Hold skirt up with both hands.

Part II

1 1 Step forward with right foot.
2 Step forward with left foot.
3 Bend knees.
4 Straighten up.
2 Repeat Meas. 1 of Part II.
3-4 Turning to the right, dancers make one circle doing eight "sa-lap steps" (brush right, step right; brush left, left; repeat six more times).
5-8 Repeat Meas. 1-4 of Part II

Part III

Face the audience

1-2 1 Hop on both feet
2 Hop on left foot, bring right knee up parallel to ground, toe down.
3-6 Repeat counts 1-2 from measure 1 of Part III.
7 Hop on both feet.
8 Kick right leg up waist-high, slightly across body to left side.
3-4 Repeat Measure 1-2 of Part III, using opposite footwork.
5 1 Hop on both feet
2 Hop on left foot bringing right knee up parallel to ground, toe down.
3-4 Repeat counts 1-2 from Measure 5 of Part III.
6 1 Hop on both feet.
2 Kick right leg up waist-high across body.
3 Hop on both feet.
4 Kick right leg up waist-high across body.
7-8 Repeat Meas. 5-6 of Part III, using opposite

Part IV

Holding up skirts, face the audience.

- 1 1 Hop on both feet
- 2 Kick right leg up waist-high across body.
- 3 Hop on both feet.
- 4 Kick right leg up waist-high across body.
- 2 Repeat Meas. 1 of Part IV.
- 3-4 Repeat Meas. 1 of Part IV, using opposite footwork
- 5 1 Hop on both feet.
- 2 Kick right leg up waist-high across body.
- 3 Hop on both feet.
- 4 Kick left leg up waist-high across body.
- 6 1 Step left to side.
- 2 Touch right foot at side of left foot.
- 3 Step right to side.
- 4 Touch left at side of right.
- 7-8 Repeat measure 5-6 Part IV.

Part V

Face the audience, moving to the right.

- 1 1 Step left across right.
- 2 Step right to side.
- 3 Step left behind right foot pivoting on both feet a quarter-turn to the left.
- 4 Scoot back on both feet slipping up skirts in back.
- 2-4 Repeat Meas. 1 of Part V - face the audience to begin each step.
- 5-8 Repeat Meas. 1-4 of Part V, moving back left to original position using opposite footwork.

Part IV

Holding their skirts, girls face the audience.

- 1 Repeat Meas. 1 of Part III.
- 2 With right knee still raised make three clockwise circles with the leg from the knee, kick straight ahead on the fourth count.
- 3-4 Repeat Meas. 1-2 of Part VI, using opposite footwork.
- 5-8 Repeat Meas. 1-4 of Part VI.

Part VII

- 1-18 Girls do "step touch" Starting to right, and one by one they peel off and go to the side of the stage in a running step. Each girl does a cartwheel across the stage. After each one has completed the cartwheel, all the girls pirouette across the stage and end in their original positions facing the audience.

Part VIII

Dancers drop skirts and put arms around each other's waist, facing audience.

- 1 1 Hop on right foot, kick left foot backward.
- 2 Hop on left foot, kick right foot backward.
- 3 Hop on right foot, kick left foot backward.
- 4 Hop on left foot, kick right foot backward.

- 2 1 Hop on right foot, kick left foot forward.
- 2 Hop on left foot, kick right foot forward.
- 3 Hop on right foot, kick left foot forward.
- 4 Hop on left foot, kick right foot forward.
- 3-8 Repeat Measure 1-2 of Part VIII.

Part IX

- 1-6 Repeat measures 5-6 of Part IV.
- 7-8 Dancers turn right sides to audience, do one cartwheel forward
into splits, heading touching right knee in front. End position;
in splits, both hands up over head.