

LA CLOG-VALSE  
(French-Canada)

I learned this dance in 1964 from famous Quebecois fiddler Jean Carignan. It is most likely a derivative of the English Waltz-clog, and can be done either as a solo dance or as a duo.

Suggested Recording: Philo, FI-2003 Side B/2 3/4 meter

Stylistic Notes: In Quebecois step-dancing, the feet are kept almost parallel and as close to the ground as possible. Movements are clean, sharp and contained within near space. Flexibility in the ankle joint is essential as is the use of countertension from the floor (i.e., as in hops). The torso is maintained upright and the arms hang loosely along the body. Most of the time the weight is kept forward on the ball of the foot.

MeasPatternFIGURE ICHORUS

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Small leap onto L ft;                          |
|   | 2 | Shuffle with R ft; R toe takes wt momentarily; |
|   | 3 | Fall back onto L ft; touch R toe next to L.    |
| 2 |   | Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.                   |

VERSE

- |       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
| 3     | 1 | Step on L ft;                                 |
|       | 2 | Brush R ft in low level across in front of L; |
|       | 3 | Hop on L ft.                                  |
| 4     |   | Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk                   |
| 5-12  |   | Repeat meas 1-4 twice;                        |
| 13-14 |   | Repeat meas 3-4.                              |

BREAK

- |    |     |  |
|----|-----|--|
| 15 | 1   | Jump slightly fwd on both heels; click toes together |
|    | 2   | Step back on R toe; step back on L toe;              |
|    | 3   | Click both heels together; lower R heel.             |
| 16 | 1   | Lower L heel;  |
|    | 2-3 | Pause.   |

FIGURE II

- |     |  |                            |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| 1-2 |  | Repeat Chorus as in Fig I. |
|-----|--|----------------------------|

VERSE

- |       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 3     | 1 | Step on L ft;  |
|       | 2 | Shuffle with R ft; hop on L ft;                          |
|       | 3 | Step on R ft behind L ft; step on L ft in front of R ft. |
| 4     |   | Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.                             |
| 5-12  |   | Repeat meas 1-4 twice:                                   |
| 13-14 |   | Repeat meas 3-4.   |
| 15-16 |   | Repeat Break as in Fig I.                                |

LA CLOG-VALSE (Continued)FIGURE III

- Repeat same pattern as in Fig I and II except for Verse:
- 3 1 Jump on both ft slightly apart with knees bent;
  - 2 Hop, catching L heel with R toe; fall onto ball of L ft; lower L heel (slight knee bend);
  - 3 Point R toe behind and to L of L ft.
  - 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.

FIGURE IV

- Repeat same pattern as in Fig I and II except for Verse:
- 3 1 Step on L ft sdwd L; catch L toe with R heel;
  - 2 Hop onto L ft in place; step on R ft across to L of L ft;
  - 3 Catch R heel with L toe; hop on R ft in place.
  - 4 Repeat meas 3 continuing in same direction.
  - 5-6 Repeat Chorus as in Fig I.
  - 7-8 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk (last ct of preceding Chorus ends with a catch step on L ft instead of a toe touch).
  - 9-10 Chorus step beg on R ft, again ending with a catch step instead of a toe touch.
  - 11-12 Repeat meas 3-4.
  - 13 1 Cross and step on L ft over R ft; catch L heel with R toe;
  - 2 Hop on L ft in place; step sdwd R on R ft;
  - 3 Catch R toe with L heel; hop on R ft
  - 14 1 Cross and step on L ft over R ft; catch L heel with R toe;
  - 2 Hop on L ft in place;
  - 3 Step back on R toe; step back on L toe.
  - 15-16 Break as in Fig I but substitute jump on 1st ct with step fwd on R heel, step fwd on L heel next to R.

FIGURE V

- Repeat same pattern as in Fig I and II except for Verse:
- 3 1 Step on L ft.
  - 2 Stamp R ft next to L;
  - 3 Hop on L ft; shuffle on R ft.
  - 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk .

Presented by Camille Brochu