



QUADRILLE FRANÇAIS DES BALS PUBLICS (Cancan Quadrille)

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From many early sources and illustrations from the 1830s through 1880s, and one later source, Eugene Giroudet's *TRAITE DE LA DANSE*, 7th edition, ca. 1890.

In the public dance gardens of Paris, students kept the old *chassé*, *jeté*, *assemblé* and fancy balancing steps that they had learned when they were younger, and they exploded them, so that the *jeté* throws of the legs became kicks, and *balancés* became even more extravagant. By 1890, Giroudet implied that this had finally settled down to walking steps, but all of the illustrations before 1890 showed high kicking and prancing footwork, not walking.

Giroudet's first figure *Le Pantalon* was oversimplified to the point that almost nothing of the original *Pantalon* remained, but the original *Pantalon* figure continued for decades, so I'm keeping that figure, performed in the Cancan manner of course.

Formation: One couple facing one couple, with the lady at the right of the gent.

LE PANTALON, Figure 1 of the French Quadrille

- 8 *Chaine Anglaise*, crossing over, not taking opposite's hands as you pass through. Turn partner by the L hand. Return to places the same way.
- 8 *Balancé* partner & swing by the left hand.
- 8 *Chaine des Dames* (Ladies Chain).
- 8 *Demi-Promenade* (promenade across taking crossed hands) & *Chaine Anglaise* to places.

MAZURKA OF THE BALS PUBLICS

- 2 Gent takes his partner in a bal public waltz position (shoulder-hold is one possibility), faces out of the set, and lightly leaps 2 steps backing the lady, then 2 steps backing the gent.
- 2 Pivot or jeté pivot 4 steps into the corner space to your right diagonal. Polka works easier.
- 4 Repeat, ending in opposite places.
- 8 Repeat 2 more times to end up back in original places.

LA PASTOURELLE, Figure 4 of the French Quadrille, with Cavalier Seul for the men

- 4 All advance and retire with partner.
- 4 Advance and the gent releases his lady to the opposite couple and returns to his place.
Optional: the opposite gent may hold the R hand of his partner with his R hand, and hold the L hand of his opposite lady with his L hand.
- 8 The gentleman "executes all the variations that he knows" (Cavalier Seul).
- 4 Forward Three and back.
- 4 Forward again then the gentleman leaves the two ladies to the first gentleman, spinning them over to the other gent. The three take normal inside hands.
- 4 Solo Gent walks around in a circle to prepare himself.
- 8 The second gentleman executes his solo variations.
- 4 All advance to take hands-4, circle left halfway, falling back in opposite place with partner.
- 4 Chaine Anglaise to home places.

- 4 **BREAK** Wait and acknowledge partner.

LA POULE

Repeat from above.

MAZURKA OF THE BALS PUBLICS

Repeat from above.

LA PASTOURELLE, with Cavalière Seul for the ladies.

- 4 All advance and retire with partner.
- 4 Then the lady releases her partner to the opposite couple; she returns to her place.
- 8 The lady executes all the variations that she knows (Cavalière Seul).
- 4 Forward Three and back.
- 4 Then forward; then the second lady leaves the two men to the first lady.
- 4 Solo lady walks around in a circle to prepare herself.
- 8 The second lady executes her solo variations.
- 4 All advance to take hands-4, circle left halfway, falling back in opposite place with partner.
- 4 Demi Chaine Anglaise to home places.