

STEPS FOR THE MID-19th CENTURY

MAZURKA

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PAS DE BASQUE

(Polish Pas de Basque, Basque Step, Running Step, Redowa, Pas Courant)

Preparation: R foot raised to 4th position in front

1: Switch on to R foot, kicking L foot fwd into the air (straight L leg).

(None of the 19th c. sources mentions a *ronde-de-jambe* movement here.)

2: Continuing the momentum of the L foot, glide a long step fwd L, 4th pos, bending the R knee.

Cellarius emphasizes a smooth, easy glide, not a jump.

3: Cut R under L (*coupe-dessous*), kicking the L foot forward into the air. Repeat with opposite feet.

Later variation (Zorn, 1887):

On count 3, the *coupe* is audibly accented more forcibly by the men.

Notes:

- All mid-19th century Pas de Basques are described this way.
- All commence with the right foot. (12 descriptions)
- One-third of the sources state that the Pas de Basque is the basic traveling step of the Mazurka.

PAS GLISSE

(Pas de Mazurka, Mazurka Waltz, Cellarius Valse, Pas Ordinaire, Pas de Flore)

1: Hop lightly on the R foot, with L closed to the ankle in front (*temps leve*)

2: Glissade L forward to 4th position, keeping the straight R leg raised behind

3: Skate again on L fwd, keeping R raised behind.

Repeat on opposite feet.

Notes:

- Two sources advise understating hops on counts 1 & 3, emphasizing the glissade.
- Cellarius has a typo, which has transferred to later translations: He said raise the L leg behind on count 3. Error was countered in his later *Pas Boiteux* description.
- It is possible to interpret Cellarius & Gawlikowski descriptions as: Hop-glide on 1; hold on 2; hop on 3. But Gawlikowski Pas de Basque description shows this interpretation is most likely an error.
- One source (c.1848 La Mazurka) states that the lady commences on the opposite foot from the man, the only instance of this among 50 sources.
- Several sources state the lady does not execute Pas Glisses in promenades, but does the Pas de Basque instead.
- One-third of the sources state that the Pas Glisse is the basic traveling step of the Mazurka (from 12 descriptions).

Variation: **Valse Cellarius**, as sometimes specified for Mazurka Quadrilles on count 3, close free R foot to the rear of the L ankle.

Variation: **Pas Ordinaire** of Zorn, 1887

Prep: Hop lightly on L, extending R forward.

1: Glide (lightly tap) R fwd to 4th position, without weight.

2: Transfer weight to R, raising straight L low behind.

3: Hop on R, carrying (swinging) L forward, low into the air.

Repeat with opposite feet.

"A certain swing of the body and crossing of the legs render this step particularly attractive."

Variation: **Pas Allongé** from 1848 La Mazurka

1: Temps leve (hop on L, possibly with R closed to L ankle)

2: Glissé R fwd, well turned-out, raising L leg behind

3: Click a small Coup de Talon (heel-click)

4: Throw I. fwd into a new Coup de Talon (louder than count 3)

5: Glissé L fwd

6: Hop L, possibly tapping R to the floor as it swings through.

(This step is recommended for men only)

Note: In a living tradition of this step in c1920 Mazur, this step is done by the man sideways, to his left, as he promenades with his lady. Count 6 swings sideways as one would kick a soccer ball.

PAS BOITEUX

(Hobble Step, Limping Step)

1; Hop lightly on L, possibly closing free R foot to the L ankle
2: Glissade R forward to 4th position
3: Close R to L
Repeat, commencing with the same foot
This may be commenced with either foot (some sources describe opposite footwork).

Variation (Cellarius, Gawlikowski):
Coupé on count 3, striking the heels. Zorn adds a stamp here.

Variation (Zorn):
On count 1, the free R foot is held forward in 4th position.

Variation (c1815, c1830, 1836):
1: Stamp R to right side
2: Hop on R, raising and pointing the L to the left side
3: Close L to R, or glissade L, or cross L behind R.

Repeat to the same side. Ladies lightly mark the steps.

Note: This was the basic mazurka step in the earliest sources, and was used for both the promenade and tour sur place.

COUP DE TALON

(Pas Polonaise, Pas de Mazurka, Pas Battu Laterale, Heel Step)

Prep: Throw the straight L to the left side
1: Hop on the R and click the heels together in the air
2: Step L to the left side, 2nd position
3: Close R to L, raising the L to the left side to repeat.
Ladies do not click their heels, but only mark the step lightly.
Zorn advises to click the heels with parallel feet.
This step may be done to either side.

Variations (Zorn):
Strike the heels on the preceding count 3 and again on count 1.
Strike the heels three times within one measure.

Variation (1885 Giraudet):
Execute in the order 2-3-1, like the first half of a Polka Mazurka.

PAS FRAPPE

(Pounding Step)

After a promenade or other sequence of steps:
1: Jete fwd onto R audibly, holding the L (bent L knee) behind
2: Stamp L in 1st position
3: Turn both heels away (pigeon-toed) or separate both feet into 2nd position
4: strike heels together in 1st position
5&6: Hold