

LA JAVA

(pronounced zha·VAH') of 1920s Paris

Three hundred *bals musette* sprang up in the suburbs of Paris during the twenties, centered in the Bastille and Montmartre districts. Created primarily by immigrants from the Auvergne in the 19th century, the *bal musette* was the dance hall of the working class, where the waltz, polka, one-step and java were danced to the music of accordions, saxophones and guitars.

La Java was a *bal musette mazarinka* from the Auvergne. Its style was distinctive enough to be adopted by some Parisian social dancers, to add variety to their soirées, and it was exhibited as a rough "apache" style *Java Vache* in cabaret entertainments. Even though *La Java* was not noticed by the popular press until 1919, it had by that time already been danced at *bals musette* for decades.

Being a true vernacular dance which was neither standardized nor regulated, each Parisian dance manual from the 1920s described slightly different Java styles and step terminologies.

Java handholds:

Style A: Basic waltz position, but closer. Man almost shelters her protectively.

Style B: Both of her hands are around his neck, possibly with her face buried in his chest. His hands hold her waist.

Style C: His left hand is in his pocket, or hanging free at his side.

Style D: A czardas-like shoulder hold, especially for Java Marche Style D.

Men's steps are described below. Women dance opposite unless otherwise noted.

Java Marche (also called *pas marchés*, *pas courus*, *la marche*, *java promenade*)

Ⓢ L[↑] R[↑] L[↑] • R[↑] L[↑] R[↑] • L[↑] R[↑] L[↑] • R[↑] L[↑] R[↑] backing the lady

Taking short, accented steps flat on the sole of the foot, with a jerky sway of the body down to the right and left sides on each step.

Java glissée, *pas de côté*, *la marche de côté*

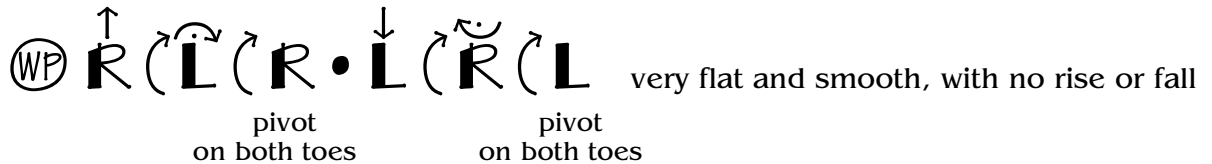
Ⓢ L[←] R[←] L[←] R[←] L[←] R[←] • L[←] R[←] L[←] R[←] L[←] **Repeat** to the right
stamp stamp

La Pas marqué, *pas de habanera*

Ⓢ L[↑] R[↓] L[↑] • R[↑] L[↓] R[↑] • repeat both
short rock longer short rock longer

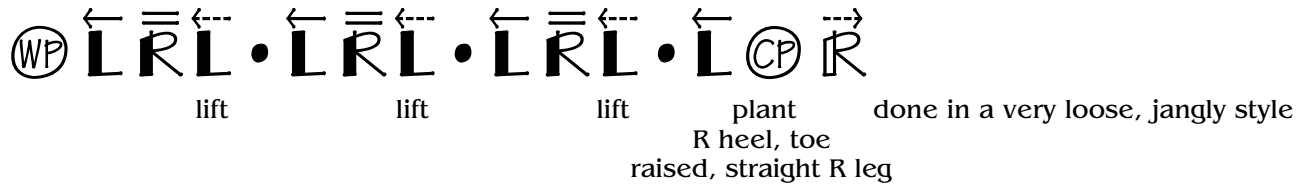
Java Valse Simply rotate and travel with a Java walking step, turning CW or CCW, turning 360 degrees every six steps.

Valse musette (one of several different styles)



Reverse valse and la berceuse may be done, sometimes ending with two stamps.

Polka Mazurka (similar to a 19th century "La Koska")



SOME SAMPLE NOTATION CODES:

