
Galliards

The tourdion is a light, quick 15th century dance in 32 measures which usually follows a basse danse. It was a simple, purer form which developed into the galliard. The latter veiled the simpler tourdion steps in elaboration and decoration, but became an entity danced by itself. The quicker tourdion was performed with lower, faster kicks (pied en l'air), while the slower galliard could allow higher kicks, for example the greve and the pied crosse.

The Galliard and Tourdion are both done to six beats, and have similar steps. Here are the basic steps:

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| 1. | kL | Hop into the air, and land on the right foot, with the left foot extended (like a KL in a Bransle). |
| 2. | kR | |
| 3. | kL | |
| 4. | kR | |
| 5.6. | Capriole | Pause slightly, then take a larger leap, landing on both feet with the left foot in front of the right foot. (PL). |
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The above sequence is called a "cinque pas" (five steps), and is repeated throughout the dance alternating with the following sequence, which is the same thing starting on the right foot.

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| 1. | kR |
| 2. | kL |
| 3. | kR |
| 4. | kL |
| 5.6. | Capriole |
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A common way of dancing the Tourdion after a Basse Danse is to dance 8 cinq pas travelling forwards, then 8 facing your partner, repeating until you run out of music or weet bix.

Galliards are done following a Pavane. Often, each pavane music has a galliard piece following the same tune, but in 6/6 time.

There is theoretically some similarity between the galliard and tourdion, and the pas de brabant of the Burgundian basse danses, and the saltarelli of the 15th Century Italian Balli.

Galliard Variations & More Complex Galliard Steps

To learn the endless variations of galliard figures, it is necessary to be conversant with the vocabulary from which they are named.

Abbreviations

k	Pied en l'air	low kick (front)
K	Greve	high kick (front)
Hk	Ruade (horsekick)	(back kick)
Ck	Ru de vache	cowkick (side kick)
Pc	Pied crouise	crossed kick (foot across other shin)
Bk	Campanello	bell kick (alternate pied en l'air/ruade on the same foot)
J	Saut majeur	high jump
jj	Saut moyen	medium jump
j	Petit saut	small jump
Cp	Capriole	jump, crossing feet in air
CS	Cadence	jump, followed by a Posture
P	Posture	walking pose (foot & hand on same side forward, other foot & hand back)
Mf	Marque talon	touch heel to ground
Mp	Marque pied	touch toe to ground
Fl	Fleuret	2 rapid alternate low kicks followed by a normal pace high kick (kL kR KL)
Cn	Canary	low kick, marque talon, then quick marque pied.
Sf	Fleuret Croise (L)	(L) sideways step followed by quick (R) crossed kick, then normal pace low (R) kick
En	Entretaille	Forwards travelling step slipping one foot beneath the other
Pj	Pied Joints	Join feet together

Notes

At the start of each step in a galliard there is a small leap (Petit saut or j), which is included as part of the step unless it specifically states otherwise. For example, to do a kL, make a small leap onto the right foot (j) at the same time as kicking the left foot forwards slightly in a low kick (kL).

In learning some galliards it is frequently easier to have a small chant or "mantra" to go with the galliard. This can be recited quickly while making the steps. For an example of this, see the "overfoot variation" on the next page, which can be quite difficult to learn, but is much easier with the mantra.

Five Step Galliard Figures

Each of these motions give rise to one or more galliard figures. They can be performed either moving forward, partners holding inner hands, for processing about the hall, or as a counterpassing variation if room is limited or expertise in elaborate steps is to be demonstrated.

Each of these galliard figures is shown starting on the left foot. In each case the second set of the figure should be repeated in the same way as the first set, reversing Right & Left.

1.	Cinq-pas (five step)	kL kR kL kR CSL
2.	Ruade-Entretaille	HkL KR HkL KR CSL. This is the French "bell-step" from Orchesography.
3.	Ru de Vache	CkL CkL CkL CkL CSL
4.	Pied Croise	PcL PcL PcR PcR CSR
5.	Campanello	BkL BkL BkL BkL CSR The Italian "Little Bell" step. Execute this pattern with partner's (L) sides opposed. Note: one Bk (L) = k & Hk in one beat.
6.	Fleuret	FIL FIR CSL
7.	Side-crossed Fleuret	SfL SfR CSL
8.	Over-foot variation	kL PcR HkL kR CSL mantra: "kick cross back kick change".

It is possible to choreograph your own galliard using specific patterns of galliard variations. This example I saw listed as the "Earl of Salisbury Galliard".

1.	(16 measures)	Cinq-pas counterpassing (twice)
2.	(16 measures)	
	A.	Pied Croise.
	B.	Cinq-pas counterpassing (once)
3.	(16 measures)	
	A.	Overfoot variation
	B.	Cinq-pas counterpassing (once)
4.	(16 measures)	
	A.	Side-crossed fleuret
	B.	Cinq-pas counterpassing (once)

Eleven Step Galliard Figures

Instead of dancing each 6 beat galliard measure as one sequence of 5 steps, and then reversing the steps for the next 6 beats, a galliard sequence can be derived by taking 2 measures of 6 beats each, and performing 11 steps in the 2 measures.

At the end of the first measure, instead of performing a cadence followed by a posture for 2 beats, each beat is used for a single step. The cadence and posture are done at the end of each second measure only. Therefore, 6 steps are done in the first measure, and 5 in the second measure for a total of 11 steps.

Some of these variations are simple extensions of the 5 step galliards. These are the easiest to perform, because the 5 step sequence is just extended for a further measure before the cadence:

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| 1. | Onze-pas (eleven step) | kL kR kL kR kL kR kL kR kL kR CSL |
| 2. | Fleuret | FIL FIR FIL FIR CSL |
| 3. | Side crossed Fleuret | SfL SfR SfL SfR CSL |
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Other eleven step galliards are more complex, being formed from larger combinations of the galliard steps:

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| 4. | (From Orchesography) | HkR KL HkL KL HkR KL HkL KR HkR
KL CSR
mantra: back front swing swing back
front swing kick swing kick change. |
| 5. | (From Orchesography) | HkR KL HkR KL PR KR PL KL HkL KL
CSR
mantra: back front back front down up
down up swing swing change. |
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