

## Zwiefache

(Southern Germany and Austria)

Zwiefache (ZVEE-fah-keh)(two-fold), Bayrischer (Bavarian) and other names are referring to a dance type as distinctive as the waltz or hambo. It is a free style dance whose main distinction is a rhythm change that switches back and forth between 3/4 and 2/4 (or 3/8 and 2/8) meter. This type of music can be traced back to the 16th century, but it is hard to determine just how far back the present way of dancing to it goes. It is known that the melodies were closely connected to song texts so the change in rhythm could be clarified thru the manner of singing. These dances became popular in Lower Bavaria, Upper Pfaltz, Franconia, Baden, Swabia, the Black Forest, and in Austria but they never achieved the significance of the Landler or Waltz.

In recent years, folk dance leaders such as Gretel Dunsing, John Filcich, Ned Gault, Morey Gelman, Walter Grothe, and Walter Kogler (among others) have contributed to our knowledge of zwiefache.

**MUSIC:** The availability of records and tapes varies from year to year. According to local dealers, the following records are currently available:  
Bavarian Zwiefache! DA-578 (33 rpm) Suserl, Zwei Kapellen, Boehmischer Wind.  
Bavarian Zwiefache! BZS 7904 (33 rpm) Wintergrun, Bavarian Medley, S'suserl.  
Bavarian Zwiefache! BZS 7905 (33 rpm) 2-4-6, Hopfenschupfer, Alte Kath.  
Festival Records C-33-101 Zwei Zwei Zwiefacher, Ladirl Zwiefacher.  
Folkcraft 1506x45 (33 rpm) Alte Kath, Bayerischer Bauer.  
Folkcraft 1507x45 (33 rpm) Wintergrun, Sommermichl.  
Two cassettes by Ned Gault are available, each of which contains a zwiefache.  
Volkstanze - Volksmusik E 10-102 Side A/4 Der Kupferwurm.  
Austrian Style E 10-103 Side B/2 My Friend John.  
For some time these have been unavailable but many people still have them.  
Tanz Records: three 45 EP (56-908, 56-909, 56-910)  
each with 5 zwiefachen and pattern cue sheets.  
Kogler EP 56906 Eisenkeilnest, Der Wirt vo Stoa, Die Alte Kath, Schneider.  
Kogler EP 58126 D'Ochsa.  
In the last few years Tonomatic of Munich, Germany has produced a series of 5 cassettes (MC 340 478, MC 340 487, MC 340 523, MC 340 540, MC 340 553). Each contains 18-20 zwiefachen with no patterns explained; but with a bit of experience, they can be figured out. As of this writing, none are available locally but that may change.

**RHYTHM:** 3/4 and 2/4 (or 3/8 and 2/8) meter, mixed according to the music.

**FORMATION:** Couples at random about the floor, each in closed ballroom position or in shoulder - shoulder blade position.

**STEPS:** Waltz: (3/4 or 3/8 music): May be danced turning CW, CCW, or fwd. Step on L (ct 1); step on R (ct 2); step on L beside or near R (ct 3). Step alternates. It may also begin with R.

Dreher: (DRAY-er) (2/4 or 2/8 music): May be danced turning CW, CCW, or fwd. Step on full L, flexing knee (ct 1); raise L heel as L knee is straightened (ct 2). The slower the music, the more the knee is flexed. With faster music the Dreher is similar to a ballroom pivot and with slower music it is more like a modified step-hop. Step alternates. It may also begin with R.

The zwiefache is a couple dance done to music made up of 3/4 and 2/4 (or 3/8 and 2/8) measures using the Waltz and Dreher steps. The sequence of the steps is dictated by the music. This is basically a turning dance with the amount of turn in any measure depending upon the mood and energy of the dancers and by the condition of the floor area (crowded, slippery, etc). Couples progress in LOD while turning CW or CCW or even moving straight forward for a rest or to negotiate a change in direction.

Until one becomes familiar with a piece of music it helps to have dance cues. Many recordings supply cue sheets, and others have pattern cues on the label. The usual way of describing cue patterns is to designate W as a Waltz step and D as a Dreher step. It is necessary to check for an Introduction as not all recordings have them, even two recordings of the same piece of music can be different. Some sample pattern cues are:

Älte Kath            WWDD WWDD WWDD WWDD  
                  or    simply WWDD    (two Waltzes then two Drehers repeated to end of music)

Deifi du Dürrer    WDD WDD WDD WDD WDD WDD WDD WW  
                  or    WDD (7x)    WW

Hopfenschnupfer   DDWW DDWW DW WWW DDDWW DDDWW  
                  or    DDWW (2x)    DW WWW    DDWW (2x)

o Lauda            DDWW (4x)    DDDDDDDD (4x)

Schubkarn           WWDD (4x)    DDDDDDDD (2x)

Da Schaufisteil    WWDD (4x)    DDDDDDDD (2x)  
                  A vocal gives this one a different feeling than Shubkarn directly above.

In the last three zwiefachen there are 32 or 16 consecutive Drehers. Such repetition can be a bit dizzying and/or boring, so it has been suggested that groups of eight may be done as follows:

Meas 1-4    Beg with outside ft, turn away from ptr (M CCW, W CW) with four Dreher steps in a small circle.

5-8        In closed ballroom pos or in shldr-shldr blade pos with ptr, turn CW progressing in LOD with four Dreher steps.

Repeat as desired.

This piece is meant to be an introduction to an interesting and enjoyable dance form that may have been neglected for lack of background information.