

**Introduction to Bransles**  
**Stellar University of Northshield – 11/11/17**  
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Bransle / Branle – from French *branler* “to shake, wave, sway, or wobble” referring to the side-to-side motion of the circle or line of dancers.

How bransles are generally constructed

- Double bransle – double left, double right, repeat
- Single bransle – double left, single right, repeat
- Most bransles start with the double or single above, followed by the part that makes that bransle unique.

### **Single & Double Bransles**

#### **Clog Bransle**

- A: Double L&R, repeat.
- B: Single left, Single right, and Stamp 3 times with the left foot. Repeat.

#### **Horses Bransle**

- A: Double L&R, repeat 3x.
- B1: Men paw ground twice with right foot, step to the right, then turn over their left shoulder to move up the hall.
- B2: Women paw ground twice with right foot, step to right, then turn over their left shoulder to line up with the next Man.

#### **Washerwoman’s Bransle**

- A: Double L&R, repeat.
- B1: Face your Partner and put hands on hips. All go a Single left, then a Single right, the Man shaking his finger at the Woman.
- B2: Repeat, the Woman shaking her finger.
- C: Face into the circle. Double Left, clapping hands four times. Double Right, no clapping. Double Left, clapping four times. Turn Single to the left using four kicks.

#### **Schiarazula Marazula (SCA Maltese Bransle)**

- A: Double L&R, repeat.
- B1: Drop hands and go three singles into the center (your left side in, then, right, then left), then clap 3 times.
- B2: Go three singles back out (as going in), then clap 3 times.

#### **Pinagay Bransle**

- A: Double left, kick Left. Double Left, kick Left, Right, Left.
- B: Double left and right.

### **Official Bransle**

- A: Double L&R, repeat.
- B: Single to the left SIX TIMES, looking first at your Partner, then your Corner, and back and forth during the six singles to the left. Then the Woman steps in front of her Man, placing her hands on the Man's shoulders, then she jumps while her Partner moves her to his left.
- NOTE: If a lady wishes to be "tossed," she should put her hands on his shoulders. If she wishes NOT to be tossed, she should put her hands on his hands.

### **Pease Bransle**

- A: Double L&R, repeat.
- B1 – Men hop and land with their feet together. Women do the same. Men step to the left, then make three quick hops to the left, landing with their feet together.
- B2 – Women hop and land with their feet together. Men do the same. Women step to the left, then make three quick hops to the left, landing with their feet together.
- NOTE: In the SCA, this is often danced as a partner-switching dance. Instead of the Women doing 3 hops at the end, they go behind their partners to join the next Man.

### **Maltese Bransle**

- A: Double Left, Single Right, repeat.
- B1: Take two steps toward the center, then 3 double-speed steps into the center. Right foot kick, then pivot on the right foot, ending facing outward with a left kick, then three small kicks.
- B2: The same going out.

<http://hakon.pfitzinger.net/dance/>