

Zwiefacher Online: Tricky Rhythms and Movement

a virtual class using Zoom software. Virtual drop-ins are welcome.

Tuesdays 4:00-4:50 pm - Seattle, Pacific Time or Pacific Daylight Time

Fridays 10:00-10:50 am - Seattle, Pacific Time or Pacific Daylight Time

Instructor: [Patrick McMonagle](#)

Sponsored by:

**The Greenwood Senior Center, Seattle &
The Phinney Neighborhood Association, Seattle**

Use this web link to join the class in progress:

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Current version downloads:

***The Paper Partner Companion*, this document: [click here](#)**

***The Zwiefacher Paper Partner*: [click here](#)**

This is a companion document to *The Zwiefacher Paper Partner*. The Zwiefacher Paper Partner contains the step patterns to the Zwiefacher dances taught in the online class for the Greenwood Senior Center in Seattle during the Coronavirus Lockdown of 2020-22. This companion document helps people interested in more to navigate German websites which contain more information.

The Paper Partner Companion is updated less often than *The Zwiefacher Paper Partner*.

Nearly every bit of underscored text in this document is a live web link to something on line. Many people keep a copy on their computer to use to log into class, donate to support the class, research the tunes or email the instructor.

About the Zwiefacher

The Zwiefacher is now popular in the Alps. Cycles of popularity have occurred since at least the 1600s, each adding its bit to confusion. The modern German language and spelling system were created in the mid 1800's, when Zwiefacher awareness was low and some its ancient spellings were unnoticed. 1600's national boundaries bore no similarity to today's and Germany itself was a cultural and linguistic concept, not yet a nation. The web still shows Zwiefacher music scores in obsolete notation styles, some used into the mid 1900's. The Zwiefacher has retreated from low popularity periods into backwoods areas, drifting, evolving and inspiring new interest.

The dance is now done with couples facing, offset a bit. The earliest steps for the dance are unknown, it is possible that the waltz is a descendant. The earliest records named Zwiefacher are arrest records. Couples were charged with dancing face to face in public, a crime in areas under conservative moral rulers. (Is it safe to guess the same kind of conservative now wishes people would dance wholesome traditional dances like the Zwiefacher?)

Three steps can be mixed to make a Zwiefacher; Waltz, Pivot (1 step) and more rarely Polka. The Zwiefacher Paper Partner describes the step patterns.

(The coding on a German language website is: W=Waltz, D is Dreher=English Pivot, and P=Polka. That German P=Polka is also sometimes especially confusing since, as you gain altitude in the Alps the names and dances Polka and Schottisch swap identities. Thus a 'P' on a German site is often most like a face-to-face version of 4 beats of the American Schottisch.)

Spelling Rules and Tune Names

Spelling rules were established in the 1860s for proper German. Many Alpine dialects deliberately avoid those rules. They may use rules established by past education systems. Some follow the judgment of the writer. Some use characters like å and é which are not part of the German alphabet. A change in dialect can move a Zwiefacher name into a different place in an alphabetic listing. In one book I have; over a thousand different tune patterns share a couple hundred names with ½ to ¾ unnamed.

The Zwiefacher is a living music and dance form. Tunes are invented and rediscovered regularly. If they are not popular, they may be forgotten almost as often. Many wait rediscovery in musician's handwritten notebooks stored in library basements. Volunteer and civic cultural organizations in the Alps search for and publish these.

Simply stated, official German, Hochdeutsch, spelling rules are applied to tune names very loosely. Similar tunes may have names with slightly different spellings to distinguish performance rights or the local dialect. This can be confusing, but it can also be a great adventure, following a motif as centuries, locations or the musicians change.

Zwiefacher tunes are played in places that speak other languages including Czech, French or English. And good music is one of the quickest things to cross cultural boundaries, though a tune name might not cross intact.

Main Points:

An action superior to all the rest of the confusing things here is: **Dance to the music!** Not the name or musical score or written pattern. Enjoy the trickery the band may toss your way. It is tricky at the very best when you discover that the tune tricked you clear out of your left sock, while both shoes remained on!! (At the end are the clues the best bands provide which allows a good dancer familiar with a well known band's style to dance to about any Zwiefacher that band plays.)

Zwiefacher music probably dates to the 1400's. Zwiefacher rhythms clearly date to the 1600's. (17 dances were banned as sins in Baden-Wurtemberg. 14 were Zwiefachers and 12 of those are still done today!) The name 'Zwiefacher' is first recorded in the mid 1700's. (Recorded on an arrest record, for dancing sinfully in public, face to face.) The modern German Language was first agreed upon in the mid 1800's, along with some of the German borders. Thus a person can reasonably expect "Zwiefacher" to have a few dialectic variations, and a few national variations.

The most accepted origin of the dance is Bohemia, which is now half of the Czech Republic. The dance is called Sedlák, Bavorák or Matenik there now. It is traditional in parts of France and known commonly.

To pronounce German properly you need to know the gender (die, der or das) that precedes nouns. Germans expect English speakers to get that wrong, and the different German dialects had or have variations of that (da, d', s', 's etc). Thus, Germans rarely expect me to get

that right, in proper German, and I almost ignore it. I do not use die, der, etc. to alphabetize names, I treat those as a comment, just like I would "The" in the dance "The Locomotion". But, Germans is properly alphabetized that way, giving multiple places in an alphabetic list you might find one dance; Da Münsterer, Der Münsterer or Münsterer. On an umlaut free keyboard Münsterer can be correctly spelled Muensterer, doubling the options.

Bands are free to improvise. (I have a 1960's book with over 1,200 different Zwiefacher patterns collected from lower Bavaria. Over half are called "namenlos" = "unnamed". The rest share about 200 names and each may use multiple names.)

"Driefacher" is a Zwiefacher name for dance patterns that include 3 dance steps Waltz, Pivot and Polka, or maybe you call that Polka a Schottisch.

The answer to "Is it really Polka or Schottisch?" is something like "Yes". The names "polka" and "schottisch" swap dances as you gain altitude in the Alps. In Switzerland they are the opposite of America. In the rest of the Alps the names and places of the switch are dependent on old trade routes, winter pass closures, dutchy borders and the location of the best Bierhall with a good dance floor. Proclaimed best, that is, by infantry during the Napoleonic Wars.

A Zwiefacher tune with one unique name is probably a recent composition. "Recent" means no older than 1910 and probably younger than 1965. Durable recordings may stabilize names. It may be that current efforts to apply copyright-like rules to local variants of traditional tunes will eventually stabilize Zwiefacher names more.

The Web: If you want more here is some help with Zwiefacher web pages, a few are in English, the best are in German.

American: [Mine](#) may be the best in English. But I last changed it over 10 years ago. The Zwiefacher is still quite popular in the Alps and I do not keep up with updates. So, My web site sends you to German language sites. Before you go, here are some German web navigation clues.

Consider all I mention safe. German digital security and privacy laws are in many ways superior to and safer than those here.

Look at Google translate. The best English to another language translations are to German and French. This is wonderful for helping with German web sites. Google Translate works best in proper German "Hochdeutsch" or "High German". But folk topics, like Zwiefacher, are on the edge of many dialects by nature. Translate handles many dialect terms. Fortunately, for dialects over the edge, the German web sites often must explain unusual dialect terms in High German anyway.

Zwiefache in Noten

This Austrian website is maintained by Franz Fuchs. The Austrian Parliament gave Franz a gold medal for his folklore work. (If Austria still had an emperor, Franz would be a knight.)

There are hundreds of Zwiefacher tunes on this site. All are well described in German. Franz Fuchs updates his site monthly, almost always with 2 more Zwiefacher tunes. Here are some useful entry points for English speakers, and places to return to if you get lost:

The front door: [Zwiefache in Noten](#)

Names [A-B](#)

Names [C-D](#) which includes “Der”, “Die” & “Das”, etc.

Names [E-G](#)

Names [H](#)

Names [I-L](#)

Names [M-R](#)

Names [S-Sch](#)

Names [Se-Sz](#)

Names [T-Z](#)

The last 12 months [update list](#). The Zwiefacher part is a bit over halfway down the page, indented below the section *Auf Stammitischmusi Klosterneuberg*.

Say you do not commonly navigate German language websites and you want access to information about the Zwiefacher. Let's take a practice trip and chase after a dance almost everyone in North America calls Eisenkeilnest.

(You will notice naming issues common to the Zwiefacher. In the A-B section; two “A oanzigs Hendle” and “Aber d' Ochsn” are shown. “Bayersicher Bauer” and two “Boarischer Bauer” tunes share essentially one name, in different dialects. “Augustin Zwiefacher” and “Da zwiefache Augustin” are Zwiefacher versions of the common “Auch du liebe Augustin”, but separated in alphabetical order. This is normal. Tunes and names were probably diverging during the American Revolution, maybe even when Columbus landed in America. They still are.)

First Screen: toward Eisenkeilnest is to the alphabet section, screen [E-G](#). Click, or Ctrl+click on it.

The header and footer have the navigation instructions. Here is the header,



1) Both #1s move to the prior section in the alphabet.

2) Both #2s move down the alphabet.

3) Means we are in the normal musical notation section. Grisschrift a bit below this screen section is another form of score, preferred by many Alpine 'button box' players.

4) Is list of other names for the Zwiefacher dance itself. The Zwiefacher has been popular enough for the last 20 years that use of these less common names has been fading.

First Screen, footer

5) Click here to see Eisenkeilnest.

Before you do, notice “Eins Zwei Drei Vier Zwiefacher”, just before. I always call it 1-2-3-4 because it has so many dialect names that show up in different places in the alphabet. Some Germans do the same. But when in disagreement about a “best” name for a Zwiefacher; Franz Fuch's choice is a very good bet.

Eisenkeilnest Screen, Top

- 1) The name Franz Fuchs uses for this Zwiefacher.
- 2) Names used by others. (This website does not index by these names.)
- 3) Get a MIDI file of the tune, computer generated beeps. Some browsers play it directly, others download it for you.
- 4) The sheet music with the words to some of the song. A normal click on the mouse also gets the MIDI tune. A right-click downloads the score.

Eisenkeilnest Screen, Lower middle

Buchberggasse 63
 A 3400 Klosterneuburg
 franz.fuchs@stammtsichmusik.at

Quellen

Der Eisenkeil, Zwiefacher, Bayrischer Wald (ohne Text) in: Kurt Huber, Klem Pauli: *Altbayerisches Liederbuch für Jung und Alt*, Mainz: Schott, o.J. [=1936] = Edition Schott 2599; S.79, Nr.76.
 St. Seidl, Ball auf der Alm VII, Leipzig, Hofmeister.
 5 "Zwiefache aus der Oberpfalz", mehrstimmige Akkordeon- und Blasmusikausgabe
 Spinnradl, unser Tanzbuch, dritte Folge
 Der Text der zweiten und dritten Strophe stammt von Josef Eberwein, Dellnhausen.
 Siehe auch Tanzbeschreibung mit Hörprobe auf [Volkstanzkreis Freising](#)
 Auswahl der Version und zweistimmiger Satz Franz Fuchs.
 Siehe auch [Dancilla](#).

Überlieferte Strophen

O du mei lübes Eisenkeilnest,
 wo bist denn wieder gar so lang g'west?
 6 Do bi i g'west, do bin i g'west,
 so bin i, bi i jatzt g'west.
 Dös Dunnerwetter Eisenkeilnest,
 san dreizehn, vierzehn Junge drin g'west.
 Dös Dunnernest, döst Dunnernest,
 dös Dunner Eisenkeilnest.

Tanzbeschreibung:

7 W = Walzertakt, D = Drehtakt
 |: D D W W D D W W D W D W D D W W :|
 |: D D W W D D W W D W D W D D W W :|

8 Hier können Sie die Capella-prof-Datei [downloaden](#). Dies hat allerdings nur Sinn, wenn Sie mit Capella 2000 aufwärts arbeiten.
 Näheres dazu unter "[häufig gestellte Fragen](#)"

Hier können Sie die [Midi-Datei anhören](#) oder [downloaden](#).

Wir spielen diese Melodie auch gerne mit [Okarinas](#). Die [Noten für Okarina](#) [hier](#) ebenfalls veröffentlicht.

[Zur Noten-Druckansicht](#)
[bitte hier klicken](#)

Zur [Griffschriftausgabe](#)

D Zwiefacher: Eisenkeilnest
 Eisenkeilnest (Zwiefacher)

5) Information about the source of the tune.

6) More verses to the song. Eisenkeilnest is often sung with even more, but some recorded verses are Copyrighted.

7) The dance pattern. W=Waltz, D=Pivot, P=Polka/Schottisch. Franz lays this out for the musicians to match the music score. Most dancers prefer a more compressed layout like my **2(PPWW) PWPW PPWW**.

8) The download for a Capella file. Capella is a German package for music editing. See page 11 for more info.

9) This tune is also scored for playing on an Ocarina. Click to see it. Use your browser's back button to return.

There are two YouTubes shown for Eisenkeilnest. Many Zwiefacher tunes don't have any.

Eisenkeilnest Screen, below the links, downloads and YouTubes

[\[Nach oben \]](#) [\[Echte Bayern \]](#) [\[Eichelbauer Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Eichelober Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Eichkatzi Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Eichlsau Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Ein anderer Halbdeutsch \]](#)
[\[Eisenkeilnest Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Erdäpfel Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Es blaue Hendl Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Firabo Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Friedlgirgl Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Gaadener Kirtatanz \]](#)
[\[Gmütlichkeit Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Göckale krah vo Ichahausa \]](#) [\[Gockerle willst net krahn Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Gockl wannst net krahst Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Gottloser Bue \]](#)
[\[Grillenhäusl Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Grünes Gras Zwiefacher \]](#) [\[Gsloch Zwiefacher \]](#)

We are still within the alphabet screen E-G part of the web. The bottom of the screen lets us pick another of the E-G Zwiefacher names. You are on your own. Remember your browser's [Back] button.

Tanzkreis Friesing

The Tranzkreis Friesing website is currently under redevelopment. I clicked on the letter “L” and copied the below image. Currently the site contains only text. My notes are in color on the screen images.

's Lercherl	
Schrittfolge	:DD WW DD WW: 2 mal, dann :DDDD WW DDDD WW: 2 mal my coding 4(PPWW) 2(4PWW)
Erläuterungen	Den Zwiefachen " 's Lercherl" gibt es in zwei Ausführungen. Die beiden Versionen unterscheiden sich in der Schrittfolge.
Einmal wird der Zwiefache " 's Lercherl" genannt, so wie hier beschrieben, die andere Version findet man unter der Schreibweise " 's Lercherl (alt)". Dann gibt es zum Zwiefachen " 's Lercherl" noch die Variante, bei der jede Sequenz nur einmal gespielt wird.	
Die Schrittfolge ist dann DD WW DD WW DDDD WW DDDD WW.	or 2(PPWW) 2(4PWW)
Verbreitungsgebiet	Oberpfalz und Umgebung
's Lerchal (alt.)	
Schrittfolge	DDDD WW regelmäßig alternate tune 4PWW
Diese Schrittfolge gibts auch bei:	
Blau's Hendl	other tunes which use the same
Drunt'n beim Schwanenwirt	pattern
Fensterl	
Ganserer, andere Version	
Kirmstrick	
Moidal siah – Moidal schau	
Saulocker	
Wampert Gust	
Verbreitungsgebiet	Oberpfalz
Aufzeichnung	ca. 1970 created about 1970
Leut, Leut, Leut! müäßts lustig sei	"Leit Leit" was the name on the 1st CD
Schrittfolge	:DD WWW: 3 mal, dann DDWW I bought

Text on these screens is translated well by Google Translate. (*Ahem, except for the word "Zwiefacher"!*)

The prior version of this website was maintained by Walter Bucksch, who has my thanks for decades of improving my Zwiefacher knowledge. I have not met him but we once spent days chasing down the original source of a quote I had translated from a German magazine. (He was wise to question my German translations.) Eventually he resolved false leads, like the quoted persons's multiple death dates. Queries I thought less useful had found 3 copies of the source book in used Alpine bookstores while he had decided he wanted one. I sent him what I found and did not hear from him for a week. It turned out that one of those bookstores was very familiar to him. He'd taken an immediate short walk, bought the book, then read for a week. (I only know that he lives near Munich.)

Text on this site leads me to believe that some excellent work is coming.

Capella

I download the .CAP files from German websites. They run with the German Capella music editing software. Sometimes Capella is the best way to make Zwiefacher steps clear.

The free version of Capella is worth downloading. It will play any music score it can see as computer tones.

The paid version has composition features, supports American paper sizes and has full English language support.

Oberpfälzer Volksmusikfreunde

This link puts you in the part of the site that is full of sheet

#	Name	.pdf	.cap	.mid
1.	Zwiefacher aus Postbauer		CAP	
2.	Steinmaurer		CAP	
3.	Stamsrieder		CAP	

music in .pdf and/or Capella formats. Download is easy. Click on either the .pdf or .cap file.

The sheet music part of this site has been static for a few years. Tunes #22 to 29 all have no name, “Namenlos”.

That red circle shows that my link picked Zwiefache, the plural of Zwiefacher. You can browse the other music groups. This site is safe to try and easier to read on your screen than this printed page.

If you are searching the web for Zwiefacher related info, “Zwiefach”, the root of Zwiefacher, can be useful. Did you know that a search of: **Zwiefacher -snuff** (a minus sign is in front of “snuff”) will get you Zwiefacher links without any of the snuff ads? Yup, Zwiefacher is a snuff brand name.

Dancilla Zwiefach

This Wiki is maintained by Bavarians and Austrians, the previously cited Franz Fuchs is heavily involved. I cannot recommend much of this page for non-German speakers. It has two pages of Zwiefache, 285 as of September 2021.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the first 200. On these lists “nächste Seite” means next page and “vorherige Seite” is previous page.

It also has a section Zwiefach-ähnlich or Zwiefacher like. Currently that holds 4 Ukrainian, Danish or French dances. The main reasons for exclusion from Zwiefacher are: Mazurka steps, Figure dances and some musical irregularities.

VA Volksmusik Akadamie in Bayern

This has a library of folk music, possibly not intended for public access. The [Newsletter](#) page had Zwiefacher music scores last time I looked. The pages may explain alternate dialect names at the bottom, clearly via Google Translate.

Swiss Tunes a digression, almost, but no Zwiefachers

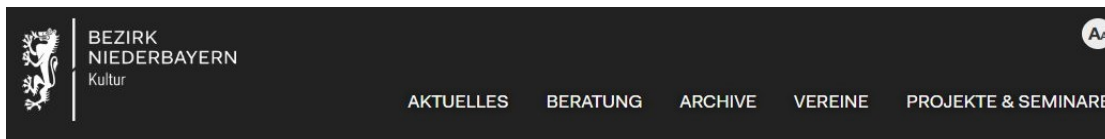
The music site of Oswald Schaub puts up a different free recording and sheet music, usually two, every month. You can download, but not sell, them. If you find a schottisch or ländler, the high speed will surprise you, even if you expect it. If you get a polka, prepare for molasses, not warp, speed. Polka and schottisch tunes swapped speeds, and usually dances, higher in the Alps.

Odd thing about these speeds; after WWII the Swiss got curious about 1800’s folk music. Their old musical scores are normally timed for waltzes, rheinlanders and mazurkas. What was danced to the odd Polka, Schottisch and Ländler speed tunes? A hint sent Swiss dance researchers toward the Seattle area. Swiss descendants in Enumclaw and Buckley WA still dance those dances that way. So do the Swiss, again now.

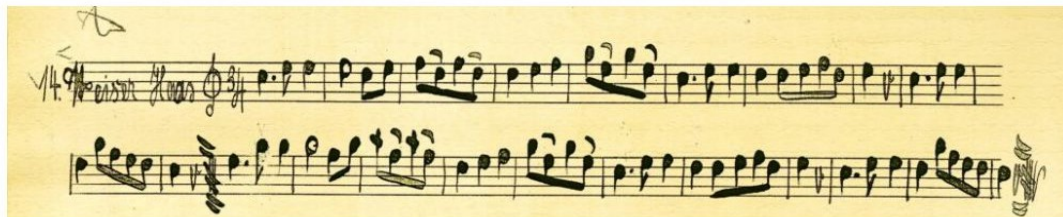
Within Driefach Zwiefachers; does Polka mean Schottisch or Polka to me? Bavaria straddles the name change border. Polka and Schottisch might apply to either speed. The difference is the Polka divides the beats slow-quick-quick while the Schottisch divides them quick-quick-slow. The Pivot can be danced to either speed. To ease confusion, what folk in Seattle call Schottisch has drifted to the name Boarischer since WWII in the Alps, especially Austria and Bavaria.

Volksmusic in Neiderbayren

This is a great site for musicians. Most terms are found in a music dictionary, just about everything but



words like Zwiefacher and the dialect's tune titles. It takes the help of a few pictures to get all the way to the music.



Except; The last takes you to other music libraries. You may need a German library card to use some. The easy way out of those libraries is to kill your browser window and start over. Learning German on the fly is a less practical option.

Notendownload Free Music Score Downloads

- Tanzmusik dance music
- Kleine Blasmusik Small brass band
- Großes Blasorchester Large Wind Orchestra
- Blechmusik 9-stimmig Brass music in 9 parts
- Diverse Blechmusikbesetzungen Various brass bands
- Diverse Holzbläserbesetzungen Various woodwind instrumentation
- Diverse Saitenmusikbesetzungen Various string music settings
- Weitere Angebote zum Notendownload More sheet music download sites (May need registration)

The line picks music scores showing below. “Noten sind GEMA-frei” means that the music scores are certified traditional and free for anyone to use.

I could pick “Großes Blassorchester” (Big Brass Orchestra) and see Zwiefacher scores. Pick one of those and I get scores arranged for each instrument in a huge band, along with notes for the conductor and lists of the instrumental and vocal parts. You can download every arrangement.

If you have friends interested in forming a Zwiefacher band, this is where to send them. And send them to me too. I'll gladly encourage them. I'd love to hear my High School brass band playing some of these.

YouTube

Keep aware the degree of variability in names and spellings. Franz Fuch's website mentions differences in both tune names and names for the Zwiefacher itself. Careful liberties with query spellings may lead you to some treasure I have not found.

Know some of the search qualifiers. Searching for “**Zwiefacher Germany**” will get you the dances filmed in front of the blue curtains. It may also get you snuff ads. Search **Zwiefacher -snuff** and you get no snuff ads. Searching YouTube for **zwiefacher -snuff -"Zwiefacher Germany"** will find neither snuff nor the “blue curtain” YouTube (and many others, see page 12). You need the quotes around search terms that contain a space, or which must match on upper/lower case terms exactly.

Rights to music on YouTube change, so tunes become unavailable. They may change again and later you see them again. They can be limited by nationality, maybe copying laws are too liberal in some nations.

Note: YouTube now allows links that go to a specific time in a video.

The Tune Names:

Assume every Zwiefacher musician figured out, when they were a kid, some challenging rhythms. Some kids are just born that way. They learned more and more Zwiefacher tunes, then went to college and figured out that not all Alpine valleys used the same names. By the time they went pro, they knew about four names for each Zwiefacher tune and knew valid reasons for the existence of two or three of those names. Reasons like: “We both use the first line of the song as the name of that Zwiefacher. In my valley the first verse is about wandering by the brook in May with my sweetheart. In Gustaf’s valley he sings first about sitting under the oak with his honey. That is my third verse. Gustaf’s town is next to those oak trees. My town is next to the brook.” This example is invented, I am not fluent enough in German to easily find a documented example. But “Aber d’ Ochsen” and “Aber d’ Wirtshaus” might be such an example.

A more recent source of confusion of similar tune names is new Copyright like systems for variations of folklore music. It is based on the tune name. A band with a uniquely different version of a tune and/or dance pattern might make the version name unique, perhaps just spelling in a different dialect. That tune might not sound unique to my aging ears.

The Band May Play Clues

If multiple musicians are in a band there is probably one with the duty of a metronome. That musician plays the 2 & 3 notes of every waltz pattern (the pa-pa of the Om-pa-pa) and the 2nd note of every pivot pattern (the pa of an Om-pa). This clue arrives late for a dancer. Your foot is already on the ground for the 2nd note if you thought a waltz was coming, but it should have been in the air for a pivot. Usually the metronome musician is a low instrument, bass guitar, drum, tuba or the left hand of an accordion. But it might be a high pitch instrument, maybe a clarinet.

Note: there is a little gear wheel, lower right, on a YouTube screen that contains the option of speeding the YouTube (to your niece's solo, the interesting part of that pageant video) or slowing playback (the useful choice for understanding a Zwiefacher). YouTube's “custom” speed choices, give you finer control.

A good band keeps an even, predictable rhythm. A great band gives away clues with tiny variations. Any expert dancer who dances to that great band can dance about any Zwiefacher they play, without hearing it first. A great band knows; for a pivot a dancer takes one step in 2 beats, for a waltz he takes 2 steps in the first two beats. This gives the band room for two clues. It takes familiarity with a band to hear these:

- The Great Band plays the pivot beats slightly faster than waltz beats. After all, two beats of waltz requires twice the steps.
- The Great Band plays the first pivot beat slightly louder than waltz beats.
- The Great Band can trick you by doing the exact opposite, especially if you are rude!

Thus, a waltz's one beat is slightly softer and slower while the pivot's beats are slightly louder and quicker. **Very Slightly!** But very small tempo changes can be sensed, if you know the band. This favors locals who know that band.

I can digitally slow a too fast two minute Zwiefacher recording. Making it 2 to 5 seconds longer is often enough. If I stretch it to ten seconds longer, 1/12th longer, it often goes from too fast to painfully slow.

You have an efficient nervous system to match your ears to feet. We all have some ancient ancestor who heard a tiger sneaking up, took effective action and passed on their genes. Even more ancient ancestors matched a sense of threat to acts of evasion, before their nervous system included a brain! Your body may use some of those nerves still for sounds, like music. Reading a coded pile of W's and P's is slower. Tricks like singing the P's and W's make learning easier. (But please, mute the mic in a Zoom class. A few folk singing “La-la-la” unmuted can make Zoom echos, feedback or reverberation and the tune itself may vanish!)

Zwiefacher dancing is mostly about matching music to your feet. If you have a partner, you match the partner too. Confused partner? Sing the steps and turn very little, rock just a bit. Getting the rhythm into your whole body, and your partner's, is far more important than an intellectual understanding, or making full turns.

Bayerischen Rundfunk

Zwiefacher Music is available from BR (Bayerischen Rundfunk or, English, Bavarian Broadcasting) . They ship to the USA and have the ability to handle the paperwork efficiently. All direct links below offer a short sample of every tune. Thus you may listen to tunes and find some Zwiefacher that I have missed. Orders could be shared among us. That might reduce shipping costs, at least for those of us with Zwiefacher susceptible neighbors.

Main website: <https://www.br-shop.de/musik/volksmusik/?p=2&o=1&n=24>

From here pick Blasmusik (Bavarian slang for "Big Brass"), Volksmusik (obvious) or Neuer Volksmusik (modern folk music)

Here are direct links to 5 CDs, I already own the 1st, 3rd & 4th. Each has many Zwiefacher tunes:

- <https://www.br-shop.de/zwiefach-1.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/a-holledauer-von-da-sunnaseit-n.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/tanzbodenlust.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/hallertauer-aroma.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/br-heimat-blasmusik-treffen.html>

Here are direct links to CDs with one or a few Zwiefacher tunes, and many other dance tracks:

- <https://www.br-shop.de/40-jahre-volksmusik-aus-den-alpenlaendern.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/a-troepferl-volksmusik.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/reisst-s-eich-zamm.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/altbairische-blasmusik-30-jahre.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/aus-dem-archiv-des-br.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/wirtshaus-musikanten-br-fs-f.3.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/obacht-musik-aus-bayern.html>
- <https://www.br-shop.de/obacht-musik-aus-bayern-vol.2.html>

Diana reports that one of these CDs arrived one week after she ordered.

I imported Bogner & Bayerischen Rundfunk folkdance CDs for a few years in the early 2000's: Reliable service.

Bognermusik



This site is only in German. Even without Google Translate, the picture above may be worth a thousand words. They ship to North America.

Zwiefacher Musicians and web sites

Otto Ebner, the musician who recorded most of the first Zwiefacher tunes to reach America. Died 1978.

Dellnhauser Musikanten and Gesangsgruppe Eberwein <https://www.dellnhauser-musikanten.de/>

Kapelle Josef Menzl <https://kapelle-josefmenzl.de/wp/>

Stuttgarter Speilkreis <https://ssk.volkstanz.com> There is a free Zwiefacher download on lower main page. Pick Tontrager to see their newer Zwiefacher CD.

Alfelder Musikanten <https://www.alfelder-musikanten.de/shop/> New Zwiefacher CD special with an Alfelder corona face mask. Sadly, they do not ship to the USA.

Karl Edelmann <https://www.musikverlag-edelmann.de/>

Niederbayerischer Musikantenstammtisch <https://www.herzsau.de/>

Regensburger Wirtshausmusikanten Bayerische Rundfunk / BR presentation

<https://br-volksmusikplattform.de/regensburgerwirtshausmusikanten>

“RUMPERTIBUM 100 Zwiefache aus Niederbayern”: this music book has a hundred Zwiefache, many never published before. kultur@bezirk-niederbayern.de is the email address for ordering.

Willi Bauer's annual Zwiefachen-Seminar [music CDs](#), 13 in all, with song samples and written step descriptions, all in German. Order from grimmeis@isartaler-volkstanzkreis.de.

D' Wadlbeißer, a folkmusik band, lists CDs on <http://www.d-wadlbeisser.de/de/cds.aspx> (the 3rd is sold out)

Tanngrindler Musikanten <https://www.tanngrindler-musikanten.de/willkommen.html>

Searching YouTube via Google

If you seek Zwiefacher music on YouTube, you can use YouTube's search. Google can also search YouTube directly. Google will usually return more consecutive useful results. I believe YouTube search guides you to what it thinks you find most interesting and after you ignore some results it starts offering the “catch of the day”, videos that attract advertising revenue, also known as “click-bait.”

Google search example `site:www.youtube.com zwiefacher -snuff` This means, longhand, “search the site www.youtube.com for links containing the word zwiefacher but skip the ones about snuff”. This search has returned over 800 sites. (Yes, there is a tobacco product named Zwiefacher.)

Two examples split the results into approximately 500 and 300 chunks. Quoted words must match exactly, including the upper/lower case spellings. These links may not be clickable, you may have to copy and paste them into your browser. Instant results are unlikely.

- Google search `site:www.youtube.com zwiefacher -snuff -"Zwiefacher Germany"` returns 500 or so.
- Google search `site:www.youtube.com "Zwiefacher Germany" -snuff` returns 300 or so.
- A third `site:www.youtube.com zwiefache -snuff` returns 100 or so. 'Zwiefache' is the plural of Zwiefacher. So this search may return Zwiefacher medleys & collections the two above miss.

Most Zwiefachers are turning couple dances. And in most places they are danced in place, more or less. Couples do drift to places with, for example, more room, music volumes they like better or corners of the floor that traveling dancers ignore. Usually the couples turn clockwise, the turning rate is constant but the speed and direction is chosen by the dancers.

There are places where it is common to travel the floor turning like a ballroom waltz or polka. Sorry, I cannot name a place. "In a valley on the other side of that mountain." said a German to me in Munich, in English. All I saw in the direction he pointed were clouds. Think of traveling the floor in relationship to the size of the floor. The Zwiefacher has been popular many times. But when unpopular imagine it surviving while being danced in tiny taverns on Alpine mountainsides. Small floors, not always very flat.

There are rarer dances which are considered a Zwiefacher and have formations and figures.

A mixer version similar to the German Jägermarsch with the march and counter march mixer and a Zwiefacher replacing the waltz turn are mentioned on this web page. The dance is from Bavaria.

[Gmütlichkeit Zwiefacher](#)

The Bavarian Zwiefacher Münsterer has been used as a mixer in Seattle and is so mentioned on this Austrian web page.

A YouTube link is at page bottom;

[Da Münsterer Zwiefacher](#)

(A mixer version is handy for teaching the Zwiefacher. They give a new dancer chances to dance with experienced dancers. A person who finds a good Zwiefacher dancer tends to hang onto them. I know, I married one.)

Here are figure Zwiefacher videos;

- Hä ri staudalewitz Schweinauer [Video and Music score](#)
- S' Luada [YouTube](#)

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