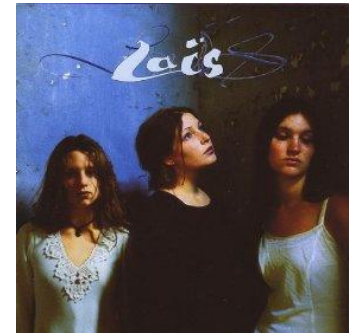


# 't Smidje (“the Blacksmith” - Belgium)

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“ 't Smidje (the Smithy) is this decade’s Macarena”, says California Folkdance Federation’s Loui Tucker. It’s exceptionally popular throughout Europe. The music is from a 2009 CD “*Documenta*”, by the folk-rock band Lais. Many of Lais’ lyrics are taken from centuries-old Flemish folk songs.



't Smidje is about a young medieval Dutch blacksmith who decides it’s time to get married, so he travels to France to find himself the prettiest woman ever. But she turns out to be a shrew and a nag, and he realizes he was far happier when it was just him, his anvil and his hammer.

The dance itself is almost identical to several other folk dances, like *Allemansmarsj* (Sweden), *La Chapelloise* (France), *American Promenade* (US) and *Humppa Mixer* (Finland).

The dance notes below are adapted from the Tucson Folk Dancers blog. This version is seen in a video from the Hamilton International Folkdancers: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZS8sCdx-Xg>  
There are several other online videos, some showing their own local styles and features:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oapDnsk2DG4&feature=related>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yil398NujU&feature=related>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZS8sCdx-Xg&feature=related>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2ZXQoyWZHs&feature=related>

*Formation:* Couples in a circle facing CCW, holding nearer hands, Man on the inside.

1. Starting with inside foot (Man's R, Lady's L), Run CCW 123, hop on count 4 and turn towards each other to face the reverse direction.
2. Going backwards (CCW), repeat # 1 with opposite footwork.
- 3-4. Repeat # 1-2, but in the opposite direction (CW first, then backing up CCW).
5. Facing CCW again, do a pas-de-bas towards your partner, coming shoulder to shoulder (1&2), then a pas-de-bas apart (3&4). [Alternately: jump on both feet towards partner (12), and both feet away (34)].
6. Partners trade places, with the man stepping to the right, and the lady crossing in front of him by first facing him and then switching hands (M's L and Lady's R) and rolling out. RLR hop.
7. Repeat # 5 with opposite foot work and direction.
8. Progression: Both turning towards the joined hand, but dropping it. The lady progresses diagonally forward to the outside, and the man shifts to the left-inside. [Alternately: man does a complete turn in three steps going diagonally backwards - to end one person behind him and on the inside; the lady does a complete turn moving diagonally forward - to end up one person ahead on the outside.]

## The Smithy's Story:

Wie wil horen een historie  
Al van ene jonge smid  
Die verbrand had zijn memorie  
Daaglijks bij het vuur verhit

Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeld

'k Geef den bras van al dat smeden  
Ik ga naar de Franse zwier  
'k Wil mij tot den trouw begeven  
Nooit een schoner vrouw gezien

Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeld

't Is de schoonste van de vrouwen  
Maar nooit was er zo'n serpent  
Nooit kan zij haar bakkes houden  
Nooit is zij eens wel content

Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeld

Nooit mag ik een pintje drinken  
Nooit mag ik eens vrolijk zijn  
Nooit kan ik iemand beschinken  
Met een glaasje bier of wijn

Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeld

'k Geef den bras van al dat trouwen  
Werd ik maar eens weduwnaar  
'k Zou mij in een hoeksken houden  
En mij stellen uit gevaar

Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeld  
Was ik nog, nog met mijnen hamer  
Was ik nog met geweld op mijn aambeeld

Who wants to hear a story  
About a young blacksmith?  
And the lessons he learned the hard way  
Heated daily by the fire.

Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.

I stopped that hard forging  
And traveled off to France.  
There I decided to get married -  
To the prettiest woman I'd ever seen.

Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.

She really is the loveliest women.  
But you've never seen such a serpent!  
She can never keep her mouth shut,  
And she's never, ever pleased.

Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.

I can't even sit and drink a pint.  
I think I'll never again be merry.  
I can't even sit with a friend,  
And share a glass of beer or wine.

Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.

I've had enough of being married.  
I wish I was still a bachelor.  
I just keep out of her way in a corner.  
And try to stay out of danger

Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.  
Oh, I wish I'd never left my hammer.  
I would pound upon the iron.