EUROPEAN SEMINAR FOR KINETOGRAPHY

Paper No.3.

Closed Positions of the Feet written with Black Pins

by Christine Eckerle, 1986.

research 1987.

It has been repeatedly argued at ICKL that the available method of describing closed positions of the feet, within Kinetography Laban, is not precise enough, and a different analytical criterion has been sought after. (e.g. Conference paper, "Pins, Paper 2, Closed Positions of the Feet", by Sheila Marion, 1979 ICKL Conference; Letter from Maria Szentpál of 5th December, 1980).

It seems, however, that the existing rules of writing have not been explored carefully enough, nor correctly presented in the papers. In fact it can be convincingly argued that the existing method works adequately.

1.   According to biomechanical analysis, in the balanced way of supporting the body, the vertical goes from the hip to the base through the middle of the foot. This is acknowledged as a standard occurrence. Obviously there will be possible shifts forwards and backwards. (See S. Mollier, Plastische Anatomie, München, 1924. Fig. B. shows the standard occurrence). The choice of the middle of the foot as the criterion is then well founded within the structure of the Laban System.
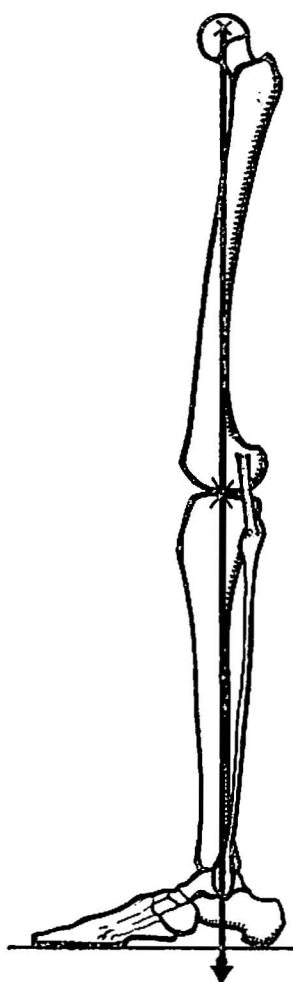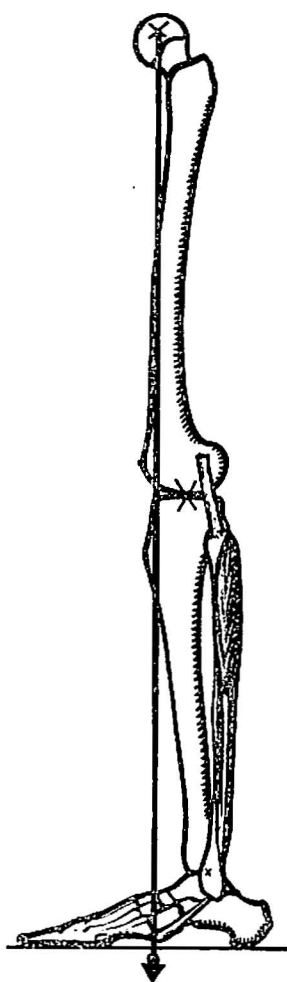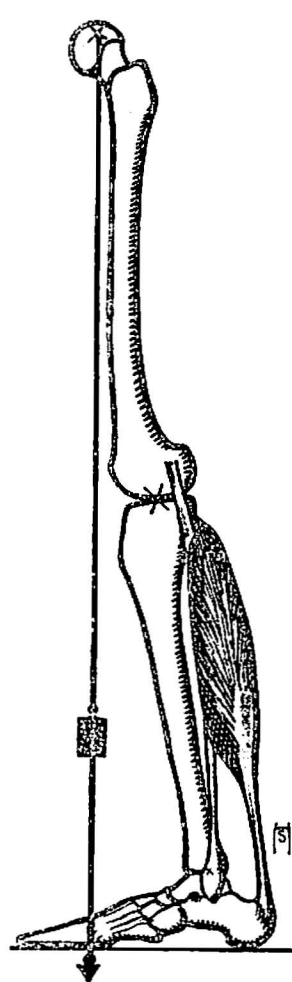
Abb. 68 A.   Abb. 68 B.   Abb. 68 C.

2.   There are many good reasons to accept the middle of the foot as point
of reference, which seems to be a relevant criterion in analysing and writing
closed positions of the feet.

Table 1: The centre of the foot as point of reference.
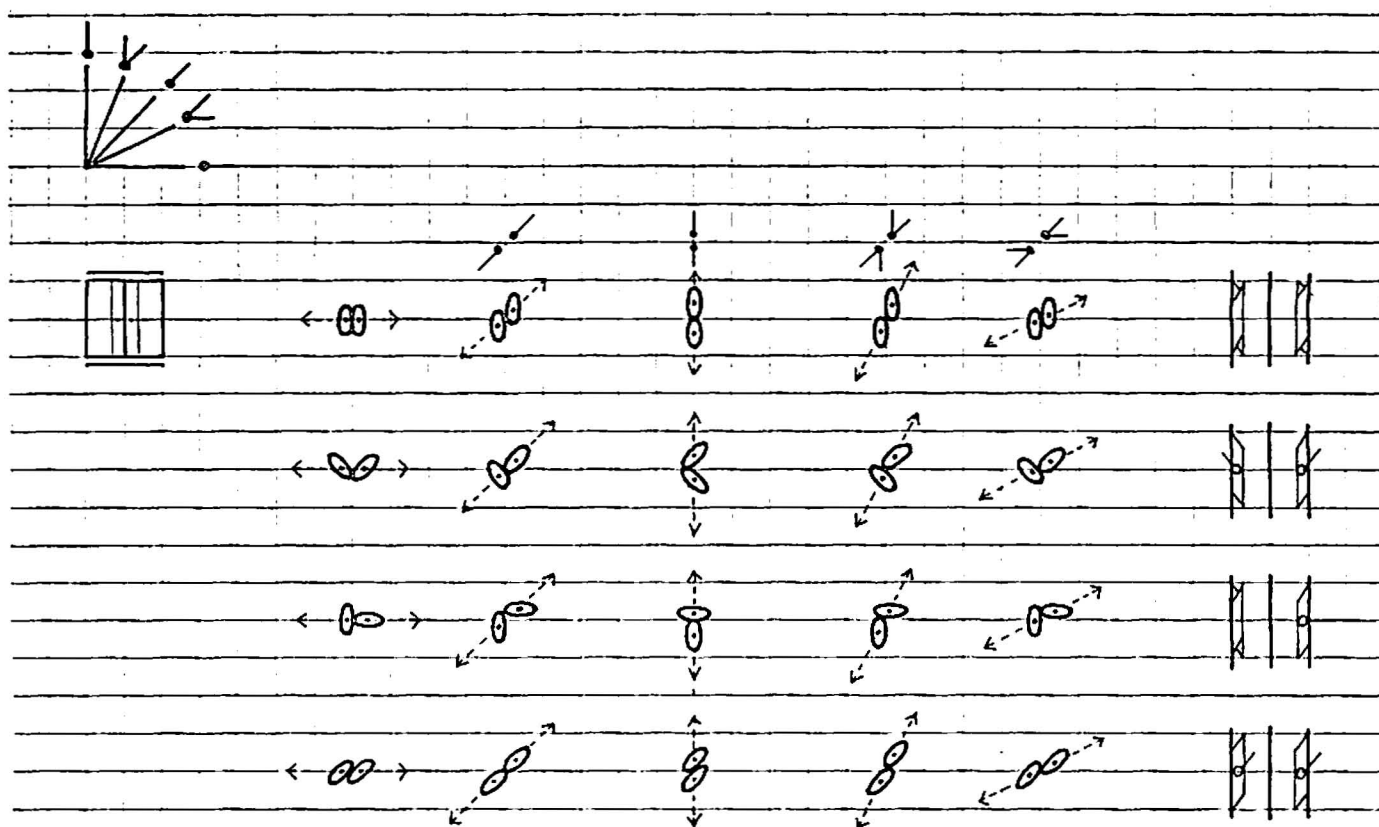
By using this criterion, the spatial analysis of the relationship of
one foot to another is _consistent_ with the generally applied reference
system within Laban's Notation.

By using the middle of the foot as a criterion in describing the
relationship of _one foot to another_ (with black pins ↓), the point of
reference remains _constant_, it never does change. This is the great asset
of this approach.

With this approach the rotations of the legs are only a _secondary_, complementary factor, and they do not affect the positions attained by the feet.

3. However, with the method of writing, as proposed by Maria Szentpál, the relationship of the different _parts of the feet to each other_, is considered (using the white pin ⚲). The point of reference is then constantly _changing_, and it has to be identified each time anew. This can be of no advantage to the writing practice. (See p.5-9, View A).

Also, with this method, the rotation of the legs _does affect_ the location of the points of reference. An entirely different principle is applied in analysing leg rotations. The feet acquire, as it were, their "own front". This goes against the basic concepts of Laban's notation system. The leg rotations occur along the longitudinal axes of the limbs, and have nothing to do with affecting the stance of the body in space.

4. In the already quoted ICKL paper by Sheila Marion, p.9., and further on, the two approaches are displayed in tables and can be compared side by side. From this survey it becomes very clear that the method already used (labelled as 'View B' in the paper), is much clearer and simpler, than the proposed new approach (presented as 'View A' in the paper):

View A. ①

[::|] Using -◇- Analysis: Right Heel in Front of Left Toe

(Dotted lines are used to assist reader with orientation)

View B. ①

PIN PROBLEMS – PAPER 2

CHART 2

[::|] using -◇- Analysis: Centre of Right Foot

Directly in Front of Centre of Left Foot

View A.

(2)

PIN PROBLEMS - PAPER 2

CHART B

Analysis: Heel or Toe to Instep (middle) of Other Foot

using / from

View B.

(2)

CHART 3

using / Analysis: Centre of Right Foot
Diagonally in front of Centre of Left Foot, 45° angle

View A.

③

CHART 8

Analysis: Heel/Heel or Toe/Toe

⊡·· from —┼—

View B.

③

FIN PROBLEMS - PAPER 2

CHART 4

Using —┼— Analysis: Centre of Right Foot
Side of Centre of Left Foot

⊡··

④

Views A.

PIN PROBLEMS - PAPER 2   CHART 10

⊡ from ⊥ Analysis: Heel or Toe to Instep (middle) of Other Foot

	41	42	43	44	45
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

④

Views B.

CHART 5

⊡ Using ⊥ Analysis: Centre of Right Foot
Diagonally Behind Centre of Left Foot, 45° angle

|	16	17	18	19	20
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					

Views A.

⑤

CHART 11

from ⊕ Analysis: Right Toe behind Left Heel

Views B.

⑤

PIN PROBLEMS - PAPER 2

CHART 6

Using ⊕ Analysis: Centre of Right Foot
Directly Behind Centre of Left Foot

5.   When pins are applied to describe the distance of a touch from the supporting foot as in example 8.5 of Sheila Marion's paper, the graphs are identical because the heel is lifted only about one inch from the floor. However, if the heel should be lifted higher, the white pin method has an additional problem to deal with, which is not encountered in the old method.

PAPER 2   **PINS FOR CLOSED POSITIONS OF THE FEET**   9.

8.4   **Distance of Touch from Supporting Foot:**

<u>View A</u> (-+-)   <u>View B</u> (-+-)

The touching foot should be placed next to the supporting foot.

The ball of the foot should be placed where it would be in if the whole foot were touching.

(½, or full ball)
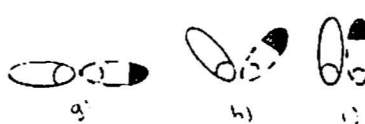
8.5   **Placement of 1/8 ball of foot touching:**

Because heel is only about an inch off the floor, space must be allowed for it. Therefore placement will be the same as for View B.

Placement remains the same as above.
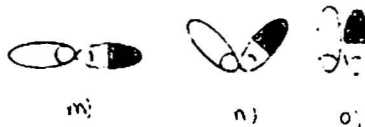
In example 9.3, of Sheila Marion's paper, this occurrence is called
an "isolated" and "preparatory" touch. It means that yet another sign
has to be added to denote the existing difference between these two
instances. (compare ex. 8.5 and 9.3).

9.3 The reader must be informed of the subsequent lowering in View A. This
can be done by using a caret placed at the end of the symbol to mean "re-
fer forward" , be alert to what is coming.

The initial touch will then be placed so as to allow room for the heel to
be lowered.

Thus:

9h) Isolated touch

Whereas

9i) Preparatory touch
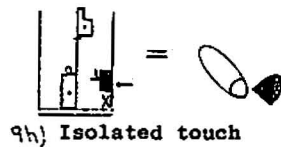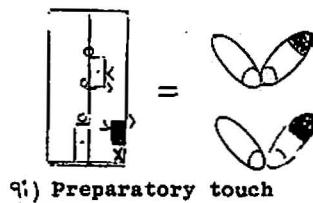
6.   The 'View A' approach had been, in some parts, worked out theoretically only, with graphs sequentially arranged. For instance example 8.9.i. cannot be performed for anatomical reasons. The same applies to all instances where the inward rotation of 90 degrees is written.

8.9.i)

7.   In example 10, there are different proposals included, as how to write mixed surfaces, when the touching part is placed next to the other foot.

In example 10.2.k, is envisaged to denote . This is against very basic rules:

- In foot, leg, and arm positions, flat pins denote a <u>deviation</u> in the direction indicated by the pin.

- Black pins denote the <u>situation</u> of one body part to another.

Hence the flat pin would indicate that the position of the feet has to be <u>opened</u> a little (and not to be <u>closed</u>). See Knust Dictionary, example 141 a-g:

141 a   b   c

141 d   e   f   g
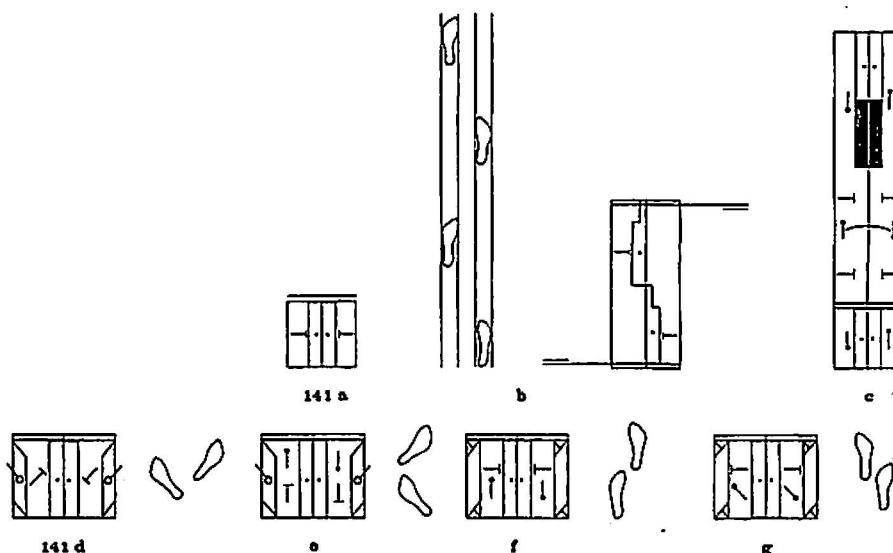
Additionally both pins in this sort of arrangement contradict each other. There is, however, a well established method of writing such instances. One of the possibilities is to use space measurement signs in the support column of the free leg. See Knust Dictionary, ex. 668 a-d:

668a   b   c   d

8.   In the tables below some of the possibilities are explored, when writing mixed surfaces with ⌡:

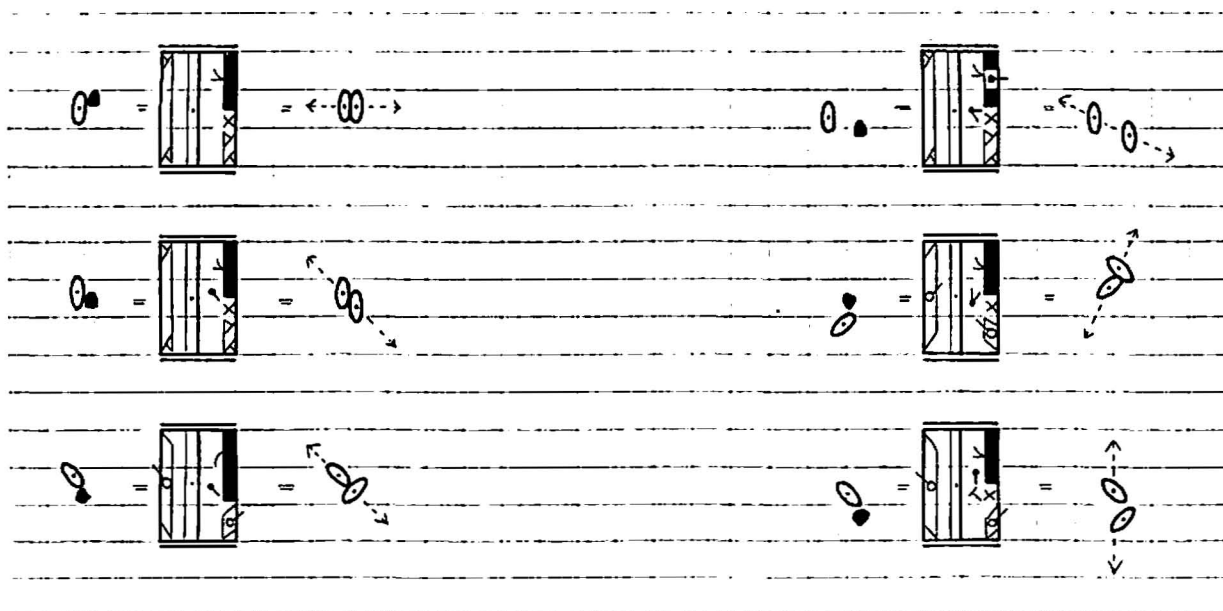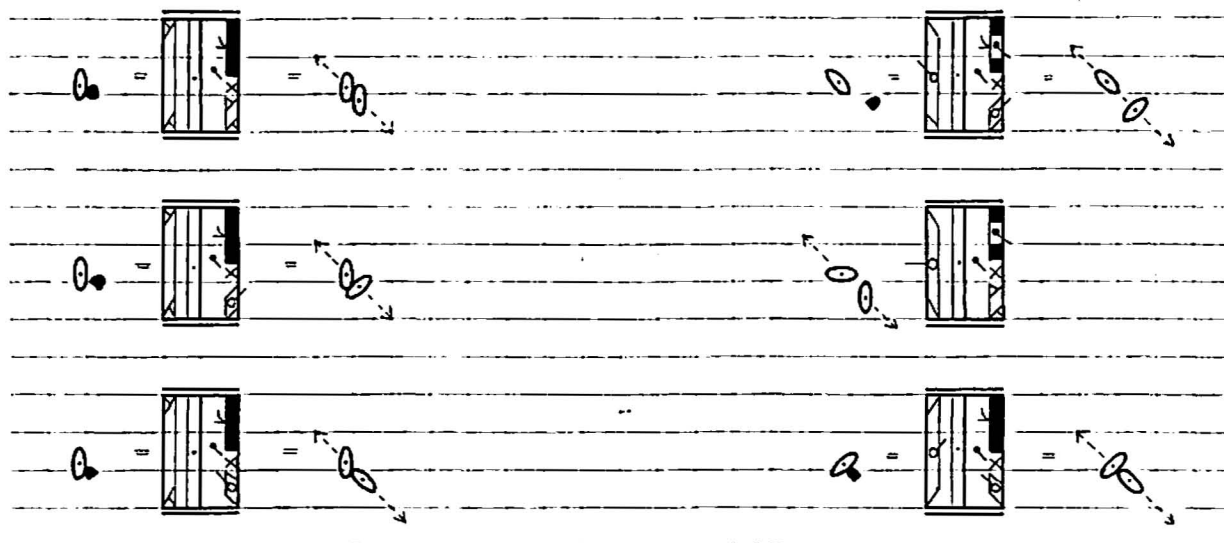Table 2.   Examples for Writing Mixed Surfaces.

Table 3. The Third Position - several possibilities explored.

CONCLUSION

It can be seen clearly that the method already established of writing closed positions of the feet (using the black pins) is sufficient in all cases. This is confirmed by all the examples presented above, and by the charts included here on pages 5-9, taken from the 1979 ICKL Paper "Pins 2".