

# ČAMČE (CHAHM-cheh) (Beranče from Peštani)

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






"Čamče" is the local version of Beranče (the type of crossing dance which is done throughout southwestern Macedonia to a variety of tunes in 12/16 meter). The principal feature of the dance as done in Peštani is the variability of the sequence. Rather than doing a 3 or 5 measure pattern, they often extend it by inserting any number of moving measures (a mixture of I and II) between I and II and by extending the in place portion by adding any number of repetitions of the two measure sequence consisting of IV and V.

## Record:

**Meter:** 12/16 =  = (1 2 3 4 in generic cross dance)

or we will count  = (1 2 & 3 4 )

**Formation:** Open circle of men and women with leader on the right. Hands are joined and help in "W" position.

Meas	ct.	Pattern
		Facing center. Weight is on L.
I	1	 Small lift on L in place.
	2	 Face slightly right. Step onto R to right.
	3	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on L.
	4	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on R.
IIa	1	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on L.
	2	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on R.
	3	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on L.
	4	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on R.
II	1	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on L.
	2	 Continuing to the right (line of direction), step on R.
	3	 Small step forward (into center) on L.
	4	 Step back onto R where it was.
III	1	 Small lift on R in place
	2	 Step onto L slightly to the left.
	3	 Small step fwd. on R (into center) - (can be in front of L)
	4	 Step back onto L in place

1. Free R is raised slightly.

2. Turn slightly to your right to face more in the line of direction.

**Note: Measure IIa may be done any number of times from none (in a standard 3 or 5 measure sequence) to 5,6,7 times.**

3. Turn slightly to your left and face directly into center.



1. Free L is raised slightly forward.






The dance may be done in the above "short" 3-measure sequence, or it may be extended by adding the following "pair" of measures.

Note: In most places this is the addition between a 3 and 5 measure dance. Here, several of these "pairs" may be added to extend the "in place" part.

IV Repeat measure III with opposite footwork.

V Repeat measure III

Extra lifts: One can replace the simple step on ct 2 of each measure and by a step with preparatory lift. To do this, we break this long count () into two short beats (). For example, in measure I





I	1		Small lift on L in place	becomes	1		Small lift on L in place
	2		Step onto R to right.		2		Quick lift on R
					&		Step onto L by R

Leader variations:

Turns: Leader might make a CW turn while moving to the right in I and IIa, but particularly in I. (Begin turn with step onto R on ct. 2 and continue to turn on 3 and 4. The turn is completed with step onto L on ct. 1 of the next measure.)

Squat: Leader might perform a squat on cts. 3 (down) & 4 (up) of measures II and/or 3 (or any of their repetitions IV and V) Squat may still have one leg a bit fwd. of the other (as in the non-squat step.)

Squat & Turn: While doing a sequence of squats, one might even use cts. 1 & 2 of the measure to do a complete turn (moving almost backwards) before doing another squat on 3 & 4. For example: after doing measure III (with or without squat):

- IV
- 1  Small lift on L in place while turning CW in place
  - 2  Continue turning CW as you step onto L (you are probably facing out of the circle at the point the foot is coming down.)
  - 3  Continue turning CW and end the turn with small step on L a bit fwd of R (possibly with a squat at the same time.)
  - 4  Step back onto L in place (or rise from squat)

V Can do the same actions with reverse footwork and direction as IV – turning CCW.