

Rokoko

Croatia

This dance comes from the Bačka region (also known as the Pannonian region) where the Croatian people live in the areas between the Danube and Tisa Rivers. In numerous debates and written articles about these people, they are often referred to as the Bunjevci and Šokci. The region is situated around the ancient town of Bač - which was once a district and also the seat of the Catholic Church. This is how it got its Slavic place-name. The migration of the Dalmatian Croats to the Bačka region (upon liberation from the Turks) did not all happen at the same time. Their arrival occurred from the beginning of the 15th to the end of the 17th century. Despite the long period of their being among other Pannonian peoples, the Bačka Croats have survived and kept their speech patterns "ikavan" as well as their wealth of costumes and art forms. This dance is done during wedding and during other social gatherings. The bagpipe (gajde) used to be the traditional instrument played for this music, today the tambura orchestra is used.

The dance was learned by Željko Jergan in 1987 from the *Smotra Folklor Zagreb*, and in 1989 from *Đakovački Vezovi* (a village group from Tavankut).

TRANSLATION: Beautifully dressed girl

PRONUNCIATION: ROH-koh-koh

MUSIC: Tape: Croatian Folk Dances by Jerry Grcevich, Vol. I, side B/2
Treasury of Croatian Dances by Jerry Grcevich
Let's Dance by Skitnice, side A/6
CD: A Road Less Travelled by Skitnice, Band 8

FORMATION: Closed circle: Shldr hold; hands held down at sides (V-pos); join little fingers at shldr ht (W-pos).

The more traditional form is noted below:

M facing ctr form a closed inside circle joining hands in V-pos.

W form a circle behind the M, with WR hand on ML shldr and WL hand on ML wrist.

Individually:

W with a loose fist on fwd part of hips and elbows pushed slightly fwd.

M hands are behind back with L hand on top of R, palms facing out (away from body).

STEPS: 7 steps sdwd with hop:

Facing ctr and moving sdwd R - beg R, do 7 small sdwd steps to R: Step R to R (ct 1); close L beside R with wt (ct &); repeat for a total of 7 side-close steps (cts 1,&,2,&; 1,&,2); hop on R as L moves twd R ankle (ct &).

Styling note: The wt is on the balls of the ft with heels slightly off of the floor.

M's 4 side-click steps:

Facing ctr and moving sdwd R - step R to R with very slight bent knees as L does small lift (flair) sdwd (ct 1); close L to R (with wt), clicking heels as knees straighten (ct &); repeat cts 1,& (cts 2,&;1,&,2); click L to R ankle (ct &). Ftwk is very small.

STYLE: Body very erect with small ftwk done almost in place heels very slightly off floor throughout dance except during walking section in Var. I. All movements are from the knees down with no upper body movement. M improvise steps with the bells attached to their boots. W dance elegantly as a backdrop for M. W never do M's steps.

Measures 2/4 meter PATTERN

INTRODUCTION (Skitnice recordings): 4 meas, no action. Beg with full orchestra and do Var. I twice.

INTRODUCTION (for "Croatian Folk Dances" tape):

- 1-7 Hold.
 8 Stamp R-L-R (no wt on last stamp) in place (cts 1-&-2).
 Do Var. I, music A, only one time (8 meas); or beg with music and do Var. I, music A, 2 times (16 meas).

VARIATION I:

Everyone in a closed circle with hands joined in V-pos. Preferably alternating M-W-M-W.

Music A: Walking Grapevine

- 1 Facing R of ctr - step (walk) R-L fwd in LOD (to R) (cts 1-2).
 2 While turning to face L of ctr and still moving in LOD - step (walk) R to R (ct 1); facing very slightly L of ctr - step L behind R (ct 2).
 3-4 Facing ctr and dancing in place on balls of ft; run lightly RLR-hop, LRL-hop (cts 1,&,2,&; 1,&,2,&). Small ftwk, on hop free ft lifts beside weighted ft's ankle.
 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, except on last meas, stamp L-R-L in place.
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 (2 times in all if beg with music).

Music B: 7 steps sdwd with hop + 3 steps sdwd with hop

- 1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd R - beg R, do 7 small steps sdwd + hop on R.
 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction (7 steps sdwd L + hop on L).
 5 Moving slightly sdwd R - step R to R (ct 1) close L to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2); hop on R in place as L moves twd R ankle (ct &).
 6-7 Repeat meas 5 twice more alternating ftwk and direction (LRL-hop; RLR-hop).
 8 Stamp L-R-L in place.
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. (2 times in all)

VARIATION II:

Music A: Step-hop grapevine

Join little fingers (pinkie's) in W-pos.

- 1-16 Repeat meas 1-16, Var. I, music A, except walks become step-hops.

Music B: M side-close with heel-clicks; W 7 steps sdwd + hop

- 1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd R -
M: do 4 side-close steps with clicks OR 7 steps sdwd with hop and click only on last step.
W: do 7 steps sdwd + hop on R.
 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.
 5-7 W repeat meas 5-7 of Var. I, melody B. (RLR-hop; LRL-hop)
M repeat meas 5-7 of Var. I, melody B, except on ct 2 "&" of each meas, hold in place on wt'd ft and click free ft to wt'd ft.
 8 Stamp L-R-L in place.
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

VARIATION III:

Music A: Moving twd LOD (R)

Moving twd LOD (R).

- 1-2 Joining in shldr hold (R hand twds front of neighbors shldr, L hand twds back of shldr) - do 8 side-close steps (cts 1,&,2,&; 1,&,2,&).
- 3-4 Dancing in place - step RLR-hop, LRL-hop (cts 1,&,2,&; 1,&,2,&). On hops free ft moves twd ankle of hopping ft. M is very erect with chest high, and leaning bkwd ever so slightly.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times. (4 in all)

Music B: M 4 side-close; W 7 sdwd steps

- 1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd R
M: Do 4 side-close steps with clicks.
W: Do 7 steps sdwd + hop on R.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

MEN:

- 5 With M hands grasped behind back, palms out and dancing in place - step-hop on R as L does a double-kick in front of R (cts 1,&); repeat with opp ftwk (step-hop L) (cts 2,&).
- 6 Repeat meas 5. (4 step-kicks in all - RLRL).
- 7 Jump into a stride pos, with bent knees (ct 1); jump into air clicking ft tog (ct &); repeat jump-click (cts 2,&).
- 8 Land on R (ct 1); stamp L-R in place, no on R (cts &,2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. (2 times in all)

WOMEN:

- 5 With fists on hips and elbows pushed fwd slightly - step RLR-hop in place - turning to face slightly R of ctr.
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 7 W turn once CW (R) in place - stepping RLR-hop on R.
- 8 Facing ctr - stamp L,R,L in place.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8. (2 times in all).

If using either of the listed recordings by Skitnice (CD or tape):
REPEAT ENTIRE DANCE FROM THE BEGINNING..

Presented by Lone Coleman and Mark Anderson
Heritage Festival Institute
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