

Rumenka

(Svrljig, E. Serbia)

- Source: As learned by Larry Weiner in the summer of 1971 in the village of Drainac, near Svrljig, in east-central Serbia.
- Pronunciation: Roo-men-ka
- Formation: Mixed lines of men and women in short lines, facing towards center, using either a belt hold or, men's hands in own belt and women's arms linked through.
- Rhythm: 2/4
- Record: Mendocino Folklore Camp 2004 – Larry Weiner Balkan Dance CD
- Note: This dance is typical of many dances found in this East Serbia. They are frequently characterized by their 10 measure dance pattern and very small, flat-footed steps. A dancer often improvises and uses one's own variations, however, they never "interfere" with others doing the basic pattern of the dance, and therefore the line always moves as a tight unit.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Basic Pattern</u> - facing center
1	1	Step sideways to R onto RF.
	2	Step onto LF beside RF.
2		Repeat pattern of Meas. 1.
3	1	Step sideways to R onto RF.
	2	Swing free LF slightly fwd to R and close to ground.
4	1	With knees stiff, Step onto LF in place.
	&	With knees stiff, Step onto RF in place.
	2	Flexing knees, Step onto LF in place.
5	1	With knees stiff, Step onto RF in place.
	&	With knees stiff, Step onto LF in place.
	2	Flexing knees, Step onto RF in place.
6	1	Hop in place on RF.
	&	Step slightly to L onto LF
	2	Step onto RF beside LF.
7		Repeat pattern of Meas. 6.
8-9		Repeat pattern of Meas 4-5.
10		Repeat pattern of Meas 4.

These 10 measures comprise the basic pattern of the dance. Think of this as the "rest" step to which a dancer returns after adding some embellishment. The embellishments I observed almost always replaced the first 2 measures of the dance and included, amongst others, the following patterns:

- 2 hop-step-steps as in meas 6-7, but with opposite footwork and direction.
- 2 sets of "threes" as in meas 9-10, but traveling to the Right rather than in place.
- 8 very quick small flatfooted syncopated (Q-S) steps to the R in place of Meas 1-2 above.