

Vlasi Tanc

(Serbia)

A Vlach dance from Eastern Serbia. The dance is composed of several dance motifs I learned from Serbian Vlachs in the early 1980s, arranged to fit this recording.

MUSIC: "Negotinski tanc"

FORMATION: Long line with leader on R. Low handhold ("V")

STYLE: Loose and playful.

METER: 4/4

PATTERN

Meas

I. FIRST FIGURE ("Sidling up")

- 1 Facing center, take a double-bouncing step on R ft to R (1), take a double-bouncing step on L ft near R (2), take a long step sdws R on R ft, weight on both feet, bending deeply in the knees (3), straighten knees, shifting weight to R ft (4).
- 2 Repeat Measure 1, opp dir and ftwk.
- 3 Repeat cts 1 and 2 twice (1,2,3,4)
- 4 Repeat Measure 1.
- 5-8 Repeat Measures 1-4, opp dir and ftwk.

II. SECOND FIGURE ("Side, cross in front, double stamps and horse")

- 1 Facing center and moving R (LOD), step on ball of R ft to R (1), step on L ft crossed in front of R (&), repeat cts "1" and "&" three more times, four times in all (2&3&4&).
- 2 Twisting lower body to R, step on R ft (1), scuff L ft next to R (&), lift R heel from floor and drop it while L leg makes a "reverse bicycle" movement (2), stamp L ft next to R without taking weight on it (&). (*This 4-count movement could be called a "Vlach double stamp."*) Repeat this "Vlach double stamp" with opp dir and ftwk (3&4&).
- 3 Repeat Measure 1.
- 4 Repeat cts "1&2&" of Measure 2 (a Vlach double stamp), but instead of a Vlach double stamp to the L, do a "horse:" twisting lower body diagonally to the L (RLOD) step on L ft (3), lift R knee, bringing R ft through (&), bring foot of straightened R leg to floor (4), and pause (&).
- 5-8 Repeat Measures 1-4.

III. THIRD FIGURE ("Heel clicks and chicken")

- 1 Step on R ft diagonally to the L (1), turning diagonally R, click L ft into R ft (2), step on L ft diagonally to the R (3), turning diagonally L, click R ft into L ft (4).
- 2 Turning diagonally R and moving diagonally away from center, fall on R ft, leaving L heel out to the side (1), click L ft into R ft, taking weight on ball of L ft (&), repeat cts "1" and "&" (2&), repeat ct "1" (3), repeat ct "&" (4). (That is, rhythmically: "chicken, chicken, CHICK-KEN!")
- 3-4 Repeat Measures 1-2 with opp dir and ftwk.
- 5-8 Repeat Measures 1-4.

IV. FOURTH FIGURE ("Indirect cross-steps, reels and chugs")

- 1 Facing center, step on R ft to R (1), step on L ft in front of R (&), step on R ft in place (2), step on L ft to L (&), step on R ft in front of L (3), step on L ft in place (&), step on R ft to R (4), step on L ft in front of R (&).
- 2 Step back on R ft (1), hop on R ft as L ft is brought around behind R (&), step back on L ft (2), hop on L ft as R ft is brought around behind L (&), chug fwd on both ft, pushing straight arms diagonally fwd (3), jump back on both ft, bringing arms back (&), repeat "3" and "&" but release R ft at the end to be able to begin again with R ft free (4&).
- 3-8 Repeat Measures 1-2 three more times (four times in all) but on cts 3 and 4 of last measure jump to feet apart position, weight on both feet (3), and bring feet together (4).

Shout "OP-SHA!" or "I-HA!" at logical and appropriate times, for example when you do the "horse" in Figure 2, the last "CHICK-KEN" in Figure 3 and cts 3 and 4 of the Figure 4.