

ARKAN
(Ukrainian)

Pronunciation: Ar-Kahn'
Record: Columbia 27252
Source: Learned by Dick Crum from Michael Herman, Folk Dance House, N.Y.
Formation: Not less than six, and preferably eight or more men in a line. Leader is at right end of line, often carries an ax in his right hand. Arms are on neighbors' shoulders.

Notes: This is a men's dance of the "Hutsul" people of the Carpathian Mountain region ("Western Ukraine). There is no fixed sequence to the various figures in this dance; the men perform the figures according to the calls of the leader, who has the privilege of calling those figures he wishes, when and as long as he wishes. The dance is in 2/4 time.

<u>Meas:</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>INTRODUCTION</u>
		At the very beginning, dancers sway for a while, feet apart, to the R and L, one sway per measure, until the leader sees that all are ready. He shouts "pishov!", signalling the basic step.
		<u>FIGURE 1</u> "Pishov!" (Let's go!) - Basic Step:
	&	RF swings up sharply across in front of L leg.)
1	1	Step to R with RF, using a smooth, gliding movement, and straightening up.
	2	Continuing to R, step LF behind RF
	1	Step to R with RF
	2	Swing LF up across in front of R, hopping on RF.
3	1	Step on LF very slightly to L, almost in place.
	2	Swing RF up across in front of L, hopping on LF.
		<u>FIGURE 2</u> - "Raz prybyj!" (Scuff once!):
1-2		Same as Meas. 1-2 of Figure 1 (Basic Step).
3	1	Step LF very slightly to L, almost in place.
	2	Scuff R heel fwd beside LF, moving it fwd and to the R in a small curve.
<u>NOTE:</u>		This figure is continued until the leader calls for another. Often the leader will "call" subsequent repeats of this figure with phrases like "za tatu" ("for papa"), "za manu" ("for mama), "za divchinu krasnu" ("for a pretty girl"), indicating that each scuff is humorously "dedicated" to the person named. When caller feels that dancers have done this figure long enough, he may call "pishov!" and all resume the basic step.
		<u>FIGURE 3</u> - "Stropachkom" ("With a double stamp"):
	&	Moving RF to R, stamp RF lightly "on the way" twd stepping with RF.
1	1	Stamp RF to R, taking wt
	2	Continuing to R, step LF behind RF.
2		Same as Meas 2 of basic step (step-hop- on RF, swinging LF).
3	1	Step LF very slightly to L, almost in place.
	2	Swing RF up across in front of L, hopping on LF
	&	Moving RF to R, stamp RF slightly "on the way" toward stepping with RF.
<u>NOTE:</u>		Caller may signal "pishov" after a number of repeats of this figure.

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<u>Meas:</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>FIGURE 4</u> - "Hajduk raz!" (One brigand-step):
1	1	Having brought R knee up and around in a curved path, dancers do a deep knee-bend (prisjadka).
	2	Straighten up, rising on both feet.
2	1	Stamp RF in place
	2	Stamp LF in place.
3	1	Stamp RF in place
	&	Stamp RF in place
	2	Stamp RF in place.

NOTE: Caller may signal "pishov" after this figure has been done once.

		<u>FIGURE 5</u> - "Raz pidkivka!" ("Heels once!"): Same as in Basic Step (Fig 1)
1-2		
3	1	Step on LF in place
	2	Hop on LF, moving to R, clicking R heel against L heel.

The following are variations on Figure 5, consisting of increasing numbers of heel-clicks:
"Dvarazy" (Twice): Same as "Raz pidkivka" with an additional hop-click added, for a total of two. Note that when doing "Dvarazy" dancers finish in the middle of a measure, necessitating beginning following figure on ct. 2.

"Tryrazy" (Three times): Similar to above, but with three clicks.

Bez konechno (Endlessly): Similar to above, but with continual clicks (usually 7 or more), till the end of a convenient musical phrase, depending on caller, who may signal "pishov!" when he wishes to change.

		<u>FIGURE 6</u> - "Hajduk dva!" (Two brigand steps):
1		Deep knee bend as in Fig 4, rising on RF
2	1	Having brought L knee up and around in a curved path, do another deep knee-bend
	2	Straighten up on both feet.
3-4		Stamp R-L, RRR, as in Meas. 2-3 of Figure 4.
		<u>FIGURE 7</u> - "Shist' zmini" (Six changes!):
		Using last measure of a basic step to wheel around on LF, swinging R knee up and around, and facing directly to L:
1	1	Step on ball of RF, straightening knee and straightening body to full height, moving in this direction.
	2	With marked accent, close LF to a pos practically underneath raised R heel, putting full wt on LF. (Almost a short, low, accented leap). L knee flexes during this movement, and R knee is raised sharply quite high, RF pointing downward. This whole movement is in sharp contrast to the very erect position of ct 1.
2-5		Same as Meas 1 of this figure, done 4 more times.
6	1	Step on RF
	2	Wheel around on RF with hop to face in LOD, swinging L knee high.
7-12		Same as Meas 1-6 of this figure, but to R with opposite footwork, and without wheel-around on end.

		<u>FIGURE 8</u> "Hajduk try!" (Three brigand-steps):
1		Swing R knee up and around, do a deep knee bend, rise half way, on RF.
2		Swing L knee up and around, do a deep knee bend, rise half way, on LF.
3		Swing R knee up and around, do a deep knee bend, rise half way, on LF again.
4-5		Stamp R-L, RRR, as in Meas 2-3 of Fig. 4.

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<u>Meas:</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
		<u>FIGURE 9</u> - "Bat'ko spyt'" ("Papa 's Sleeping"): This is the sway also used during the Introduction (see beginning).
1-3		<u>FIGURE 10</u> - "Bat'ko vstav!" ("Papa woke up!"): With a strong stamp of RF begin and do a basic step.
4-6		Lead into another basic step, as if preparing to begin with a stamp again, but instead bring RF down very quietly.
		Dancers continue, alternation "loud" and "soft" basic steps till leader calls "pishov!" or the next figure.
		<u>FIGURE 11</u> - "Gvizda" ("The Star"): At the call "Gvizda!", dancers join Hs in a circle and walk CCW. When the leader signals with two stamps, alternate men, not releasing Hs, move feet twd ctr till they are practically prone, only their heels touching the floor together in the ctr. Outside M, supporting them, continue moving CCW. Those forming the star drum their feet in the ctr as the figure revolves. The leader again stamps twice, and the M back up, straightening up. After walking a few more steps in circle, the other men, at leader's signal, move in to form the star. (Leader's signal when he is in the ctr himself is "raz-dva!"). Exceptionally good native dancers come out of the star with a back flip. At the end of the star, leader signals "pishov!", all replace arms on shoulders and go into basic step.
		<u>FIGURE 12</u> - "A na misce tropachok" (Double stamps in place):
	&	Stamp RF in place without taking wt)
	1	Stamp RF in place taking wt on it.
	2	Stamp LF in place without taking wt
2	1	Stamp LF in place taking wt on it.
	2	Hop on LF, raising R knee up.
		These movements continually in place until leader calls another figure.
		<u>FIGURE 13</u> - (This is really a variation of Figure 7) <u>"Try zmini!"</u> (Three changes!):
1-2		Same as Meas 1--2 of Figure 7
3		Same as Meas 6 of Figure 7
4-6		Same as Meas 1-3 of this figure, but opp footwork
		<u>"Dva zmini!"</u> (Two changes")
7		Same as Meas 1 of Fig 7
8		Same as Meas 6 of Fig 7
9-10		Same as Meas 7-8 of this figure, but opp footwork.
		<u>"Chetyri na misce!"</u> ("Four in place!"): <p>The four steps that follow are not done strictly in time with the music (tempo rubato):</p>
11-12		Four step-hops in the style of Meas 6 of Figure 7, done in place, beginning by facing slightly L and stepping with RF, then alternating.
13-14		Stamp R-L, RRR as in Meas 2-3 of Figure 4
		<u>FIGURE 14</u> - "Bez konechno krut'" (Endless turns"):
1	1	Do deep knee bend facing ctr.
	2	Jump halfway up from knee bend, onto balls of feet, both knees and both toes pointing to L.
		etc. Continue above movement to end of music or record.