

BEEJO

BIJO

BIJO, from Sepastia, was one of the most popular dances done at Sepastatzi picnics a generation ago. The "Trite Puti-like" arm-swing done throughout the dance is quite easy, once the rhythm is established. There are several different versions of this traditional dance, and the music, which also varied, determined which BIJO would be done. We've notated the BIJO that would be done to this particular record.

Source: Mrs. Margaret Tellalian Kyrkostas of Queens, N.Y.C., and her family. Mrs. Kyrkostas is a former member of the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York, which, under the direction of Richard Kassabian, was one of the few performing groups in America that performed authentic traditional Armenian village dances, rather than the artificial Stage Dances of today.

Music: Armenian Party Time Side B-band #1 "BiJo".

Style: Relaxed, erect carriage. The dance starts slowly and smoothly, but gradually accelerates. As the tempo increases, the dancers must control their movements more, to maintain the smooth rhythm.

Formation: Open mixed circle with hands joined and down.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
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1-8	1-16	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> Stand facing center and swing arms in (ct 1), and out (ct 2). Repeat 7 times (cts 3-16).
9-16	17-32	Still facing center, walk in CCW direction as continue to swing arms. Step R to right (ct 17). Step L across R (ct 18). Repeat 7 times (cts 19-32).

Note: This armswing continues throughout the dance, always going in on the odd counts (e.g. ct 1), and out on the even counts (e.g. ct 2). (The armswing gets very fast when the tempo increases!).

1-2	1-4	<u>PART A "Basic"</u> Still swinging arms, step R to right (ct 1). Step L beside R (ct 2). Step R in place (ct 3). Step forward on L, but keep some weight still on R (ct 4). Shift all weight back onto R (ct 5).
3-4	5-8	Step L to left (ct 5). Step R beside L (ct 6). Step L in place (ct 7). Step/stamp R in front of L (ct 8). Raise R slightly (ct 9).
5	9-10	Walk to right. Step R to right (ct 9). Step L over R (ct 10). REPEAT SEQUENCE

continued.....

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<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
		<u>PART B "Clap"</u>
1-2	1-4	Footwork is same as in PART A. Let go of handhold; men put hands on hips, women extend hands forward at waist level 'Armenian style' (cts 1&2). All clap hands to front twice (cts 3,4).
3-4	5-8	Footwork same as in PART A, with men's hands on hips and women's 'Armenian style' to front.
5	9-10	Turn 360 CW to right as step R (ct 9). Step L (ct 10). REPEAT SEQUENCE
		<u>PART C "Slide"</u>
1-2	1-4	Rejoin hands and resume armswing as in PART A. Repeat PART A, meas 1-2 (cts 1-4).
3-4	5-8	<u>Slide</u> to left (CW) stepping on L to left (ct 5). Close R beside L (ct 6). Step L to left (ct 6). This should be a smooth sideways slide that <u>travels</u> to the left. Stamp R in front of L (ct 8).
5	9-10	Walk to right. Step R to right (ct 9). Step L over R (ct 10). REPEAT SEQUENCE

Note: PART C should slowly progress to the left.

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