

CIGÁNYTÁNC
(Szabolcs - Szatmár County, Hungary)

Pronunciation: TSEE-gahn-tahnts

Two major forms of dance are found among Gypsies living in Hungary:

- (1) Cigány Tánc (Gypsy dance)
- (2) Botoló (stick dance)

The Cigánytánc, which is described here, can be done by one man, by one woman and in couples. In the men's solo form, demonstrating one's virtuosity is the aim. When dancing with a partner a game occurs in which the woman attempts to get behind her partner's back while he tries to prevent her without ever touching her. The dance, in its traditional form, is never done in a group. A couple may begin dancing and then another man or woman will come and replace the first, and then another and so on. Musical accompaniment consists of singing, "mouth music" (a series of nonsense syllables and sounds), and percussion instruments such as wooden spoons or even milk cans, serving as the rhythmic basis for the dance. More recently guitars and contra brács (viola) have been added.

Record: SKS-001; Folkraft EP 1351 4/4 meter

Formation: Cpls scattered freely about the dance space; ptrs facing each other. Fingers snap continually in front of body.

MeasPatternMOTIFS DONE BY MEN AND WOMEN

PIHENŐ (Rest) or KEZDO (Beginning)

- 1 Facing ctr, touch R ft (toe or heel) fwd (ct 1); step on R beside L (ct 2); touch L ft (toe or heel) fwd (ct 3); step on L beside R (ct 4).

SÉTÁLO (Walk)

- 1 Facing ctr, touch R ft (toe or heel) fwd (ct 1); turning to face slightly R of ctr, step fwd on R ft (ct 2); step fwd on L ft (ct 3); turning to face ctr, step on R ft to R (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction.

MOTIFS DONE BY MEN ONLY

CSIPÖ FORGATÓS VAGY CSIKTAPOSÓ (Hip turn, or putting out a cigarette butt)

- 1 With wt on L ft and ball of R ft touching slightly fwd, bounce on L ft and twist both heels to L (ct 1); bounce on L ft and twist both heels to R (ct &); take wt on R ft, and lift L ft slightly up and to side (ct 2); reverse ftwk for cts 3, &, 4.

DOBOGÓS (Stamp)

- 1 With 3 accented steps run fwd R, L, R (cts 1, &, 2); lift L ft slightly to L (ct &); click-close L ft to R ft (ct 3); fall on R ft back with L heel twisted to R (ct 4); OR fall onto both ft (knees bent), heels turned to R.

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CIGÁNYTÁNC (Continued)

- 2 Moving bkwd, step on L ft and twist R heel to L (ball of R ft remains on floor) (ct 1); step bkwd on R ft and twist L heel to R (ct 2); repeat for cts 3,4.

Alternate for meas 2:

Moving back with a bounce, twist both heels to L (ct 1); twist heels to R (ct &); twist heels to L (ct 2); twist R heel to R and extend L leg with only the heel touching (ct 3); drop onto L ft in place (ct 4).

CSAPÁS CADENCE (Slap cadence)

- 1 Fall onto L ft and bend upper body slightly fwd (ct 1); slap R hand against R boot top, leg straight (ct &); step fwd on R ft (ct 2); slap L hand against L boot top, leg straight (ct &); step fwd on L ft (ct 3); slap L hand against outer L upper thigh (ct &); slap R hand against R boot top, leg straight (ct 4).

TROMPF (Trump) Written to begin with wt on L ft; if previous motif leaves wt on R, just reverse ftwk below.

- 1 Hop on L ft in place and lift or fling R ft up and fwd (ct 1); step slightly fwd on R (ct &); accented step on ball of L ft in place (ct 2); step slightly fwd on R ft (ct &); accented step on ball of L ft in place (ct 3); hop on L ft and bring R ft around and in back (ct &); step on R ft behind L ft (ct 4); bounce slightly on L ft (ct &).
- 2 Reverse ftwk of meas 1

HÁTRAVÁGÁS (Cutting backwards)

- 1 Step on R ft behind but close to L ft (ct 1); lift, or hop, on R ft and bring L ft sharply around and in back (ct &); step on L ft behind but close to R (ct 2); lift, or hop, on L ft and bring R ft sharply around and in back (ct &); repeat for cts 3,&,4,&.

BOKÁZÓ R (Heel-clicks). BOKAZO L, same but beg with opp ft.
Preparation: with wt on L ft, knee slightly bent, and R ft raised to R side (ct & of previous meas).

- 1 Slide L ft slightly to R and close R ft sharply against L ft (wt on both ft) (ct 1); bend R knee slightly and raise L ft out to L side (ct &); close L ft sharply to R (ct 2); raise R ft to R side (ct &); repeat for cts 3,&,4,&.


TAPSOS BOKÁZÓ (Clapping and heel clicks)

The ftwk remains the same as in the Bokázó step above.

- 1 Claps and slaps: Hold (ct 1); clap hands together behind back (ct &); hold (ct 2); clap hands together in front of body (ct &); hold (ct 3); slap L hand against L upper thigh (ct &); slap R hand against R upper thigh (ct &); slap L hand against L upper thigh (ct 4); clap hands together in front (ct &).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice.
- 4 Repeat cts 1-2 of meas 1 (cts 1-2); jump onto both ft, knees bent, ft slightly apart and bend upper body fwd (ct 3); slap L hand against L boot top (ct &); slap R hand against R upper boot top (ct &); slap L hand against L upper boot top (ct 4); raise up in preparation to leap up, and clap hands in front (ct &).

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CIGANYTÁNC (Continued)

- 5 Leap in air with both heels out to sides, knees bent  (ct 1); (2/4) slap hands against respective heels up in air (ct &); land on both ft (ct 2).

PONTOZÓ (Point)

- 1 With wt on L ft, lift and lower L heel (R ft is behind L calf, R knee bent and turned out (ct 1); bend L knee and tap R toe behind L ft (ct &); lift and lower L heel (R ft moves to R side, R knee bent and turned in next to L knee) (ct 2); bend L knee and tap R toe to R side (ct &); lift and lower L heel (R ft is lifted diag fwd R (knee straight) (ct 3); bend L knee and strike R heel fwd and to R (ct &); lift and lower L heel (bring R ft, knee bent and turned out to pos in front of L shin (ct 4); bend L knee and tap R toe in front and to L of L ft (ct &).
- 2 Leap onto R ft in place and lift L ft up and behind (L knee bent and turned out) (ct 1); reverse ftwk of meas 1, cts &-4 for cts &-4.

DUPLA KOPOGÓ BOKÁZÁZÓVAL (Double stamps and heel clicks)

- 1 Slight leap onto L ft (ct 1); stamp R heel beside L ft (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2); tap L heel beside R ft (ct &); step on L ft in place (ct 3); tap R heel beside L ft (ct &); lift on L ft and bring R ft slightly up behind L ft (ct 4); step on R ft across and behind L ft (ct &).
- 2 Step on L ft to L (ct 1); tap R heel beside L ft (ct &); step on R ft in place (ct 2); tap L heel beside R ft (ct &); lift on R ft and bring L ft slightly up and behind R ft (ct 3); step on L ft behind but to R of R ft (ct &); step on R ft to R (ct 4); click-close (bokázó) L ft to R ft (ct &).
- 3 Fall onto L ft in place (ct 1); click-close (bokázó) R ft to L ft (ct &); jump onto both ft with ft about 1' apart, knees bent (ct 2); jump up and click heels together (beneath body) (ct &); spread ft apart in air and land with heel click, ft together, knees bent (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 4 Fall onto L ft (ct 1); bending upper body slightly fwd, slap R hand against R boot top (ct &); step fwd on R ft (ct ah); step fwd on L ft (ct 2); slap R hand against R boot top (ct &); reverse ftwk and slaps for 3,&,ah,4,&.
- 5 Repeat Csapas Cadence.

MOTIFS DONE BY WOMEN ONLYHÖCÖGÖ 1 (Bounce) or FÉLFORDULÓS (half-turn)

On ct & of previous meas, lower wt onto both ft together, knees bent and heels turned to L.

- 1 Bounce twice on both ft twisting heels to R (cts 1,&); lower both heels to R (ct 2); reverse heel action for cts 3,&,4.

HÖCÖGÜ 2 (Bounce)

- 1 With wt on L ft and R ft lifted slightly off floor but very near to L ft, hop twice on L ft turning 1/4-1/2 CW (to R) (cts 1,&); fall onto R ft as L knee turns in with toe touching floor next to R instep (ct 2); reverse ftwk and direction for cts 3,&,4.

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CIGÁNYTÁNC (Continued)KIÜLES (Twist)

- 1 With ft together and knees bent, raise slightly on balls of ft and twist heels to R (ct 1); raise slightly on balls of ft and twist heels to L (ct 2); repeat for cts 3-4.

CSUSZÓS (Moving twist)

- 1 With ft together, twist both heels to R (ct 1); with knees together twist toes to R (ct &); twist heels to R, knees bent (ct 2); reverse ftwk and direction for cts 3,&4. See last page**

PONTOZÓ (Point)

- 1 With wt on L ft, bounce slightly on L and touch R heel (toe up) slightly fwd and to R of L ft (ct 1); bounce slightly on L ft and point R toe in front of and to L of L ft (ct 2); bounce slightly on L ft and touch R heel (toe up), slightly fwd and to R of L ft (ct 3); drop wt onto R ft, knee bent, in place but leave L toe touching (knees together) (ct 4).
 2 Reverse ftwk of meas 1.
 3 Repeat meas 1 through ct 3; fall on R with knee bent, holding L ft beside R ft, no wt (ct 4).

EGYES KOPOGÓ HÁTUL KERESZTCIFRÁRAL (One stamp with a back-crossing cifra)

- 1 Step on R ft to R (ct 1); tap L heel beside R ft (ct &); step on L ft to L (ct 2); step on R ft across and behind L ft (ct &); reverse ftwk of cts 1,&2,& for cts 3,&4,&. This step can be done from side to side, or used to turn slowly CCW.

DUPLA KOPOGÓ HÁTUL KERESZTCIFRÁVAL (Two stamps with a back-crossing cifra)

- 1 Step L in place, or slightly to L (ct 1); tap R heel beside L (ct &); step R in place (ct 2); tap L heel beside R (ct &); step on L to L (ct 3); step on R ft across and behind L ft (ct &); step on L ft to L (ct 4); tap R heel beside L ft (ct &).
 2 Reverse meas 1.
 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2
 5 Repeat meas 1 but omit final R heel tap. Can also be used to turn slowly CCW.

SANTIKALÓ (The cripple buzz-like step)

- 1 With ft together, fall onto L ft (knee bent) in place (ct 1); take wt onto ball of R ft (ct &); repeat cts 1,& three times (cts 2-4).
 2-12 Repeat meas 1.

Use this step backing up to make a figure "S"; or turn in place in either direction with this step.

(4/4) CHUG, CROSS, STEP, TOUCH

- 1 With wt on both ft, chug back slightly on L ft and lift R ft slightly fwd (ct 1); step on R ft in front and to L of L ft (ct &); step on L ft slightly to L (ct 2); touch ball of R ft to R but near L ft with partial wt transfer (knees are bent) (ct &); repeat for cts 3,&4,&. Step can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

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CIGANYTANC (Continued)(4/4) EXTENDED CHUG CROSS

- 1 Repeat cts 1,&,2,& of Chug-Cross-Step-Touch; step on L ft slightly to L (ct 3); step on R ft in front of L (ct &); close L ft beside R, knees bent (ct 4).
Step can be done with opp ftwk.

(2/4) CHUG-CROSS-CLOSE

- 1 With wt on both ft or L ft, chug back slightly on L ft and lift R ft slightly fwd (ct 1); step on R ft in front and to L of L ft (ct &); close L ft to R ft with knees bent (ct 2). This step moves slightly to L. It can also be done with opp ftwk and direction.

CSUSZÓS KOPOGÓS (Sliding tap)

- 1 With heels together but wt on L ft, twist L heel to R and tap R heel beside L ft (ct 1); twist L toe to R and tap ball of R ft beside L (ct &); repeat cts 1,& two more times (cts 2,&, 3,&); drop wt onto R ft (knee bent) and lift L ft slightly (ct 4).
2 Reverse ftwk and direction of meas 1.

(2/4) MARI'S STEP

- With wt on L ft and R ft extended fwd (knee straight and ft slightly off the floor), moving fwd, bounce twice on L ft (cts 1,&); step on R ft in front and slightly to L of L ft (ct 2).
2 Moving fwd, bounce twice on R ft and bring L ft fwd (knee straight, ft slightly off the floor) (cts 1,&); step on L ft in front and slightly to R of R ft (ct 2).
3 Moving fwd, bounce twice on L ft bringing R ft fwd (knee straight) (cts 1,&); step bkwd R,L (cts 2,&).
4 Step bkwd on R ft (knee slightly bent) (ct 1); with L ft lifted slightly off floor but close to R ft, bounce twice on R ft and turn L ft slightly out to L (cts 2,&).
5 Leap onto L ft slightly to L (ct 1); step on R ft across and in front of L ft (ct &); close L ft to R (knees bent) to face ctr (ct 2).

ADDITIONAL MOTIFS DONE BY MENCSAPAS 2

- Done after Csapas Cadence. On the & ct of 4, slap L hand against L outer upper thigh.
1 Slap R hand against raised R outer heel at the R side (ct 1); slap L hand against L outer upper thigh, as R ft does a downward starting Ronde de Jambe (knee bent and R ft up and behind) (ct &); tap R hand against heel sole of R ft (ct 2); slap L hand against L outer upper thigh (ct &); close R ft to L ft (ct 3); slap L hand against L outer upper thigh (ct &); slap R hand against fwd-raised R boot top (knee straight) (ct 4).

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CIGANYTÁNC (Continued)BOKÁZÓ 2

- 1 Jump onto both ft slightly apart (knees bent) (ct 1); click heels together in air (ct &); land on L ft, R ft (knee bent) lifted to R side (ct 2); click-close R ft to L ft (ct &); reverse ftwk of cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).

TAPSOS BOKÁZÓ 2

- 1 Repeat action of Bokázó meas 1 while hands hold (ct 1); clap hands together in front (ct &); slap R hand against R outer heel (ct 2); clap hands together in front (ct &); reverse ftwk and handwork (cts 3-4).

CSAPAS 3

- 1 Leap onto L ft slightly to L and clap hands together in front (ct 1); slap R hand against R outer heel (knee bent) (ct &); turn R knee out (upper body rotates to R), straighten R leg and slap L hand on R upper thigh (ct 2); brush R hand up against R upper outer thigh (ct &); step on R ft (ct 3); slap L hand against L upper outer thigh (ct &); slap R hand against raised R boot top (ct 4); slap R hand against R upper thigh (ct &).
- 2 Reverse ftwk and slapping of meas 1.
- ** Transition into Pontozo: Fall onto L, turning R knee in, keeping R toe on floor (ct 4).

Because this dance is done free style, Mr. Balázs decided not to publish a set sequence.

Notes by Stephen Kotansky

Presented by Gusztav Balázs