

LA DANZA DE LOS MACHETES
(Mexico)

The Dance of the Machetes, also called El Baile de los Machetes, The Machete Dance, Los Machetes, and Potorrico, is a potoric that depicts the contest of two men over a fair senorita. In Jalisco, the dance is usually done by two cpls. This version was choreographed by Sra. Alura F. de Angeles for stage presentation. The machete is a large knife of many uses, both domestic and martial.

Pronunciation: DAHN-sah day lohs mah-CHAY-tase

Music: This sequence fits the records RCA Victor MKL 1448 (played by the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan), and Musart Ex 46483. 2/4 meter.

Formation: 2 M and 1 W thus:

M2	W	M1
X	O	X
front		

The M hold a machete in each hand. The L hand machete is held blade down like a dagger at the hip; the R hand machete is held blade up like a sword and resting on the R shldr.

Steps: Push Step to R: Step on ball of L ft (ct &); step to R on R (ct 1); two steps per meas. Direction of travel is perpendicular to the direction the body faces.

Push Step to L: Use opp ftwork and direction of push step to R.

Macheteo 1: Takes four meas.

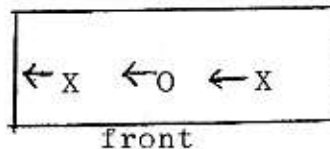
Feet: Hop on both ft (ct 1); hop on R ft while raising L knee waist high (ct 2); hop on both ft (ct 3); hop on L ft while raising R knee waist high (ct 4). Repeat cts 1-4 (cts 5-8).

Machetes: Clash machetes in front of chest (ct 1); under L leg (ct 2); in front of chest (ct 3); under R leg (ct 4); in front of chest (ct 5); behind back (ct 6); in front of chest (ct 7); under R leg (ct 8).

Macheteo 2: Same as Macheteo 1, except that M clash R hand machetes together on ct 8. M may shout "hey!" on ct 8. Note: the macheteos 1 and 2 may also be done thus: clash in front of chest, under R leg, chest, L leg, chest, back, chest, L leg or with other M, as the case may be.

Macheteo 3: Described under Figure 6.

Continued...

LA DANZA DE LOS MACHETES (continued)measPattern2 INTRODUCTION. No action.1-4 Figure 1. Entrance and first clash.
All do seven push steps to R and jump on both ft.

5-8 All make one or two turns in place to own R with seven push steps to R and jump onto both ft. M on W L makes 1-1/2 turns to face opp direction.

1-4 Alternate sequence for meas 1-8:
With eight push steps to own R, M change places, M 1 passing behind W and M 2 in front of W. W crosses R ft over L ft and rocks back and forth.

5-8 With eight push steps to own R, M return to own place, M 1 passing behind W and M 2 in front of W. W continues rocking step.

9-12 With four pas de basque, W moves fwd. M hold R hand machetes horizontally over and in front of head as if to protect forehead. Sharp edge of blade is down; palm of R hand faces out. Changing places with



seven push steps to L and a jump onto both ft, M clash machetes on ct 1 of meas 11 by bringing machetes down in a wide outside arc to connect at thigh level. Note: palms of R hands remain facing out so that back edges of the machetes meet.

13-16 W backs up with four pas de basque, making turns to R as she does so. M turns to R once or twice in place with seven push steps to R and a jump onto both ft to end facing W.

1-8 Figure 2. Figure Eight and Macheteo 1:
Using two-steps, W describes half of a figure eight around M on R. Both M do macheteo 1 twice, turning in place to face W constantly.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Figure 2), W circling M on L.

continued...

LA DANZA DE LOS MACHETES (continued)

- Figure 3. Second Clash.
- 1-4 Using seven push steps to L and a jump onto both ft, W moves bkwd. Using seven push steps to R and a jump onto both ft, M move fwd.
- 5-8 W turns to own L twice with seven push steps to L and a jump onto both ft. M turn to R as in meas 5-8 (Figure 1).
- 9-12 W pas de basque in place. M cross and clash as in Figure 1.
- 13-16 W turn twice to R using pas de basque. M turn as in Figure 1.

- Figure 4. Macheteo 2.
- 1-8 Using pas de basque, W turns in place twice to R and twice to L. M do macheteo 2 twice.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, (Figure 4).

- Figure 5. Third clash.
- 1-8 All do M part of meas 1-8 (Figure 3).
- 9-16 All repeat own parts of meas 9-16 (Figure 3).

- Figure 6. Fighting.
- 1-8 Using seven push steps to R and a jump onto both ft, M circle W clashing machetes over W head two times per meas. W crosses R ft over L ft and rocks back and forth, turning to R.
- 9-16 Repeat action of 1-8 (Figure 6), using opp ftwork and directions. Note: this Figure should not be tried with sharp machetes until mastered.

- Figure 7. Fourth clash.
- 1-16 Repeat action of Figure 5.

- Figure 8. Macheteo 2 and Finale.
- 1-16 Repeat action of Figure 4. On last count of phrase, all drop to one knee, W under crossed machetes with arms outstretched as if to stop the duel. All hold final pose.

Presented by Alura Flores de Angeles

- 111 LA DANZA DE LOS MACHETES
Music: Delete MKL 1448. Insert LPM 1318.
- 112 Fig 1, meas 1-8 (first sequence): Use the ftwk as written but do in place, all with L shldr to "Front" so as to present a profile to the audience. M R hand holds machete parallel to floor about eye level.
- Fig 2: W circles R M CW and L M CCW.
- 113 Fig 3, meas 1-4, 5-8: W uses same ftwk as M but moves to rear.
- Fig 4, meas 1-8: In class W used push steps to turn alternately R,L.
- Fig 5, meas 1-8: On push steps W move to front and M to rear.
- Meas 9-12: W back up on pas de basque steps.
- Fig 7: All push twd front. On meas 9-16, W backs up a little on the pas de basques.
- Fig 8: W used push steps, not pas de basques.
- Note: Record has 16 meas of music extra. Either pick up the needle or use the music for the exit.