

Kak Se Čuka Čern Piper

(Bulgaria)

This dance demonstrates various ways of grinding black pepper. The “pepper dance” is performed in February at Trifon Zarezan (festival in honor of the wine patron Trifon) and at traditional Bulgarian weddings. It is one of the many rituals and expressions associated with bringing and wishing fertility, many children and good health. The dancers wish newlyweds a married life that is as hot and spicy as the peppers they are grinding in dance. Jaap Leegwater learned this version of Kak Se Čuka Čern Piper, actually a special Pajduško dance in 5/8, from Dimitar Dojčinov in 1980 in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Pronunciation: KAHK seh CHOO-kah CHEHRN pee-PEHR

Music: 5/8 meter *Bulgarian Folk Dances with Jaap Leegwater,*
QS Stockton Edition, Tracks 8 & 9

Formation: Open circle. Hands joined in W-position.

Steps & Styling: Trakíjski:
- demi-plié or slight knee-bent position
- wt mainly on the whole ft
- upper body proud and erect
- kind of “down to earth” quality

Meas 5/8 meter

Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION. Instrumental.

CHORUS–TO THE CENTER

1 Facing and moving twd ctr, hop on L, raising R knee in front (ct 1); step R (ct 2).

2 Hop on R, raising L knee in front (ct 1); step R (ct 2).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

5 Dancing in place, turning slightly diag L, two stamps with R next to L, without wt (cts 1, 2).

6 Hop on L, raising R knee in front (ct 1); step R, turning slightly diag R (ct 2).

7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk and direction.

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 moving bkwd.

I. BASIC

1-4 Facing and moving LOD, four hop-steps starting with a hop on L.

5 Facing ctr, moving sdwd L, step R in front of L (ct 1); step L sdwd L, slightly bending L knee (ct 2).

6 Repeat meas 5.

7-24 Repeat meas 1-6 three more times.

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II. KNEE-KNEE

- 1-12 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-12.
- 13 Dancing in place and turning body in LOD, step R in LOD, L staying on the floor and bending L knee twd the ground (ct 1); straighten knees (ct 2).
- 14 Bend L knee twd the ground (ct 1); straighten knees (ct 2).
- 15-16 Repeat meas 13-14 with opp ftwk and direction.
- 17-18 Two hop-steps in place, starting with hop on L (cts 1,2).
- 19-24 Repeat meas 13-18.

III. ON THE BACK

- 1-3 Moving and making a full turn R, three hop-steps starting with hop on L.
- 4 Lean twd R neighbor's back, while hammering with your fists on neighbor's back: R fist down, L fist up (ct 1); L fist down, R fist up (ct 2).
- 5-6 Repeat the hammering-fists movements of meas 4 twice.
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6 with opp ftwk and direction. The hammering movements remain the same.
- 13-24 Repeat Fig II, meas 13-24.

IV. ANKLES, PESTLE AND MORTAR

- 1-4 Spread arms up in the air (ct &); while bending over and holding your ankles, make a full R turn CW in four big steps (one per meas) R-L-R-L.
- 5 Still holding ankles and dancing in place, stamp R, with wt (ct 1); stamp L, with wt (ct 2).
- 6 Repeat meas 5.
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6.
- 13-16 Holding both fists together (R on top) against the L side of rib cage, simulate holding a pestle and mortar. Move them slowly from L in front, making a hammering movement with R fist (two per meas).
- 17-18 Make two grinding movements by placing one fist on top of the other and twisting in opp direction.
- 19-24 Repeat meas 13-18.

Sequence: Intro; Fig I, Chorus step, Fig II, Chorus step, Fig III, Chorus step, Fig IV, chorus.
Ending, the last time through the dance, with the last meas: leap on L (ct 1); stamp R (ct 2);

Presented by Jaap Leegwater

SONG TEXT “KAK SE ČUKA ČERN PIPER”

// Kak sa čuka čern piper, čer piper?//	<i>How do we grind the black pepper?</i>
// čer piper sa čukaše čukaše.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// Čer piper sa čukaše čukaše.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// S djasno koljano v zemjata, v zemjata.//	<i>With the right knee on the floor</i>
// Kak sa čuka čern piper, čer piper?//	<i>How do we grind the black pepper?</i>
// čer piper sa čukaše čukaše.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// Čer piper sa čukaše čukašc.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// S ljavao koljano v zemjata, v zemjata.//	<i>With the right knee on the floor</i>
// Kak sa čuka čern piper, čer piper?//	<i>How do we grind the black pepper?</i>
// čer piper sa čukaše čukaše.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// Čer piper sa čukaše čukaše.//	<i>The black pepper we beat, beat</i>
// Sâs čeloto v zemjata, v zemjata.//	<i>With the whole body on the floor</i>