

POSKOČICA  
(Pos-koh-chee-tsah)

Konavle area of Croatia, Yugoslavia

Poskočica was a type of couple dance that was performed throughout the southern Yugoslav coast. In the Konavle area, south of Dubrovnik the dance was no longer spontaneously performed (1976-1977), but is remembered as a dance that was popularly done at the turn of the century. This version is demonstrated (as one of the old dances) to visiting tourists in Čilipi, one of the larger villages in Konavle. Elsie Ivancich Dunin learned this Poskočica during her year's stay in the Dubrovnik area (1976-1977). Dr. Ivan Ivančan (a Croatian dance researcher) describes another variation of Poskočica in his article on Konavle dances, "Konavoski Narodni Plesovi", Anali X-XI, Historijskog Instituta Jugoslovenske Akademiji Znanosti i Umetnosti u Dubrovniku. (Dubrovnik, 1962-1963) pp. 363-418. (Text is in Croatian, 2 page summary in German.)

Music: Lijerica instrument. 2/4 meter. The musician sits at one side of the dance area.

Formation: Couples of M and W dance individually in a circle moving in a CCW direction. The group is lead by a "first" couple who change the figures as they pass by the musician.

X = point where the figures are changed by the lead couple.



Figure A (galop)

Couples in a shoulder-waist position (M on inside of circle) galop in a CCW direction.

Figure B (couple turn)

"Polka" step while cpl progresses in CCW direction, while spinning CW.

- ♪ hop
- ♪ step
- ♪ step
- ♪ step

Figure C (separate - "o sebi")

1. Still moving in CCW direction, W moves bkwd, while her partner faces her and moves fwd. W's hands are at eye level, palms facing her partner (hands are actually relaxed; fingers are curled). M's arms are held diag high; they move slightly from side to side with each triplet or "polka" step. Both M and W are performing either a triplet step

- ♪ step
- ♪ step
- ♪ step

or the above "polka" step.

Figure C (contd.)

2. W spins (either direction) while moving bkws; arms remain at eye level or just above head level. M follows her with polka steps, arms are held diag. high twd his partner.
3. Reverse with W moving bkwd using polka step or buzz step. M spins and follows her, using polka step.

Figure D (in place "s mjesta")

There is no circle progression with this figure. W turns (either direction) using buzz step (wt on either ft); hands are held at her waist, elbows pointing directly to the side. M stamps L while wt is held on R ft; his upheld arms pulsate the accent of his stamps.