

Presented by Athan Karras

SYRTAKI
(Seer-tah-ki)

SOURCE: "Syrtaki" is the name given to the combination of various hassapika dances, both in style and the variation of tempo as well. Syrtaki meaning "little syrto" is the name given after the popularization of the dance used in the motion picture "ZORBA". The hasspika dances of Northern Greece, known as the butcher's dance, became very popular because of the ritualistic elements, contained within the dance, and the idea of a kind of personal "dialogue" between dancers in movement. The seaports of the Aegean captured this, and in time we have several forms of this hassapiko evolving, yet keeping the name HASSAPIKO, which dates back to the days of Byzantium, and slaughtering the swine in Constantinople. Today this version is of particular interest to people of all walks of life, and still is inspiring perhaps the same ritual from man to man.

RECORD: Soul Dances of the Greeks - Hit Parade Trio Bel Canto

FORMATION: Lines with shoulder hold.

2/4	INTRODUCTION PATTERN
Measure	FIGURE I - Basic Slow Hassapiko Step
1-2	Side steps to R with R, slowly bring L to R
3-4	Repeat with opp ftwk.
	<u>FIG I</u>
1 -2	Feet together, drop on to ctr with L, leaning body fwd (ct 1); slowly bring R ft as if to brush through swing-it fwd as body recovers and straightens (ct 2), swing R leg making a semi-circle in air and crossing directly behind L ^{FTAKE UP ON R} (1 & 2).
3	Raise L and quickly cross it behind R, and hold (ctl-2)
4	Step R to R (big step), cross ^{STEP} L in front of R (very close together) raise R and step in place, lifting L and only touching heel on floor, in front of R (cts 1&2&) Repeat first pattern three times.

	<u>FIGURE II</u>
1	As L is in front of R, continue with L three little steps RLOD (step LR, LR, LR)
2	Same as above only bringing R in front of L and moving LOD (LR, LR, LR)

	<u>FIGURE III</u>
1-2	Repeat FIG II, except only two steps to R, and two to L

see notes

1971 SAN DIEGO STATE COLLEGE FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Syrtaki-Continued

~~FIGURE IV~~

1-2 ~~Cross over four single steps starting with R and ending together.~~

~~FIGURE V~~

1-2 ~~(Four counts) open toes, open heels, close toes, close heels.~~

* * * * *

Basic Hassaposerviko Step Tempo changes

FIGURE A

1 Step R to R (ct 1), step L to R crossing behind (ct 2)
2 Step R to R (ct 1); bring L to R, no wt (ct 2).
3 Step L to L (ct 1); step R to L, no wt (ct 2).

FIGURE B

1 Repeat FIG, A meas 1
2 Repeat FIG A, meas 2, except raise L ft up to ankle hgt.
3 Step fwd to ctr with L (ct 1); swing R leg in air through (2)
4 Bring R ft crossing behind L and step on it (ct 1); bring L behind R crossing and step on it (ct 2).
5 Step to side to R with R (ct 1); step L together R (ct 2)
6 Repeat FIG A, meas 3, ct 2.

FIGURE C

1-4 Repeat FIGURE B, meas 1-4
5 Do three syncopated steps twd ctr, LRL, swing R leg through.
6 Repeat above, meas 5

Repeat FIGURE A of Hassaposerviko

BASIC FAST HASSAPIKO TEMPO CHANGES

1 Step R to R (ct 1) step L to R cross in front (ct 2)
2 Step R to R (ct 1); swing L in front of R (ct 2).
3 Step L with L (ct 1); swing R leg in front of L (ct 2)
Repeat five times

BASIC SLOW HASSAPIKO STEP REPEAT AS FIGURE I, THREE TIMES

FIGURE B GRAPEVINE OR "ZORBA" STEP

1 As L is free, step L across R, step R to R
2 Step L behind R, step R to R
3 Step L in front of R and hold
1-3 Repeat meas 1-3 in opp direction and opp ftwk
1-3 Repeat meas 1-3 with L to begin
1-2 Cross four little steps R.L.R. and L together.
1-2 Open R toe, open L heel, close R toe, close L heel

Hassaposerviko - Repeat twice FIG A of Hassaposerviko

Repeat twice FIG B " "

Repeat 8 times basic step of fast hassapiko ~~then 10 times of fast hassapiko step, with the exception that in the start instead of stepping to R, cross R then pas de bas to L and finish the syrtaki dance.~~

10 TIMES continued...

YRTAKI-Cont
Page 78

Delete FIG II, III, IV & V and insert the following:

FIG II

Meas 1 As L is in front of R, begin stepping with L 3 small steps LOD
(LR,LR,L)
2 Swing R in front of L and move LOD (RL,RL,R)

FIG III

Meas 1-2-Repeat FIG II, except dance only crosses overs to LOD, and 2 to RLOD.

FIG IV

Meas 1-2-Cross over 3 single steps (RLR) and end with close L to R

FIG V

Meas 1-2-Open toes, open heels, close heels, close toes (cts 1-4)
FIG C, meas 6: Delete "Repeat above, meas 5" and replace with "Step R
behind L, step L behind, step R to R, close L, step L to L close R"

Basic Fast Hassapiko, meas 1: Add to the beginning of sentence "moving LOD"

Basic Slow Hassapiko Step: Replace meas 1-3,1-3,1-2,1-2 with "4-6,7-9,
10-11,12-13, 14-15"

Basic Slow Hassapiko Step, meas 10-11: Delete "together" and insert "Close to R"

Basic Slow Hassapiko Step, meas 12-13 should read "Open R toe, open L heel,
close R heel, close L toe.

Add the following, meas 14-15: "With wt on L and R heel on floor next to
shift R toe to side, front,side and front (cts 1-4)

The last paragraph on the page should be deleted and replaced with:

"ENDING"

Repeat 8 times basic step of fast hassapiko
Step R behind L, step L behind R. Pas de Bas to R then L, 10 times

TSIRIGOTIKOS

Page 60

MUSIC: Add, Side 1, Band 6

Add above FIG A: "8 ct INTRODUCTION"

Delete the wording to meas 1 & 2 and replace with:

1 Step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2)

2 Step R (ct 1), step L (ct 2)

FIG A, meas 3, add to beginning of sentence: "Facing ctr"
meas 4

FIG A; delete the following at the end of the pattern, "REPEAT SEVERAL ETC",
and replace with "First time through the dance do 7 times, second time 8".

FIG B, meas 3: Delete entire sentence and replace with "Leap to R with R,
leaving L off ground (cts 1-2)".

meas 4; Delete entire sentence and replace with " Step to L "RLOD"
with 3 quick syncopated steps (LRL) and immediately swing R ft in
front of L (cts 1,&2,&)"

FIG C, meas 4, line 2: Delete 1st word "four" and replace with "three", also
add to end of sentence "and take wt".

CAIDA
Page 69

Replace the words "Meas" throughout the dance and use "cts".

FIG II: Replace cts 1-2 and 3-4 with " cts 1-4 and 5-8"

Add above FIG I: "8 cts INTRODUCTION"

FIG I, cts 1-2 should read: "Moving LOD, step R to R, step L, etc "

LINE 4: Delete and replace with, "Total 7 times"

FIG II, ct 8 : Delete "fton" and replace with "front"

At bottom of figure delete "Repeat FIG II, four times," and replace
with "Do FIG II a total of 4 times for both M and W or" repeat above, etc