

SYRTAKI

SOURCE : «Syrtaki» is the name given to the combination of various Hassapika dances, varying in style and tempo. Syrtaki, meaning «little Syrto», was popularized by the motion picture «Zorba». The hassapika dances of Northern Greece, known as the butcher's dance, became very popular due to its ritualistic elements and because of the idea of a personal «dialogue» between dancers in movement. The seaports of the Aegean took up this dance and in time several forms of the hassapiko evolved, all still retaining the name Hassapiko, which dates back to Byzantium and the slaughtering of swine in Constantinople. Today, this version is of particular interest to people in all walks of life and inspires the same «dialogue» through the use of dance movement.

2/4 Lines with shoulder hold

PATTERN

Fig. I

Meas.

Basic Slow Hassapiko

- 1-2 Side steps with R to R, slowly bring L to R.
 - 3-4 Repeat with opp. ftwk.
 - 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 (1 & 2).
 - 3 Raise L and quickly cross it behind R, and hold (ct./1 - 2).
 - 4 Step R to R (big step), cross 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.

Fig. II

- 1 As L is in front of R, continue with L three little steps RLOD (step LR, LR, LR).
- 2 Same as above only bring R in front of L and moving LOD (RL, RL, RL).

continued..

Fig. III

- 1-2 Repeat Fig. II, except only two steps to R and two to L.

Fig. IV

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

Fig. V

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

* * * * *

Fig. A**Basic Hassaposerviko**

- 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).

Fig. 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 R with R (ct. 1), Bring L to R No wt. (ct. 2).
- 6 Repeat Fig. A meas. 3, ct. 2.

Fig. C

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

* * * * *

Basic Fast Hassapiko

- 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.

* * * * *

Continued...

Basic Slow Hassapiko

Repeat Fig. I three times.

Fig. 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 Fig. A of Hassaposerviko twice.

Repeat Fig. B of Hassaposerviko twice.

* * * * *

Fast Hassapiko

Repeat basic fast hassapiko 8 times.

Repeat fast hassapiko step 10 times, except instead of stepping to R to start, cross R then pas de bas to L.

Finish the syrtaki dance.

SYRTAKI

For 1st & 2nd Part

Refer to Vari Hassapiko and Hassaposerviko

