

Presented by Mary Ann Herman

TANKO BUSHKI

Japan

SOURCE: This dance (Coal Miners' Dance) is known all over Japan, and has slight variations in various sections. It is the one dance that Japanese teach to Americans when they come over. It can be done to various Tanko Bushi tunes, but this record uses the most commonly known tune. As learned from Earle R. Buckley and Ikema-san at Maine Folk Dance Camp.

RECORD: FOLK DANCER MH 2010.

FORMATION: No partners, all stand single file, facing clockwise around the room. (Can also be done counterclockwise.) Each dancer does the dance solo, following each other around the ring.

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Music

Pattern

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- 1 Lift Right foot up below Left knee and raise both hands as if holding spade.
- 2 Touch Right toe to Right side and dig spade to Right to the earth.
- 3-4 Repeat all of above.
- 5-8 Repeat all of above but this time use Left foot and dig to Left.

Step forward on Right toe, then put weight on it as you throw coal over R shoulder. Step forward on Left toe, then put weight on it as you throw coal over L shoulder.

Now touch Right toe back then put weight on it as body turns slightly to Right, at the same time, place Left hand forward as if shading eyes as Right hand goes back. Keep head facing forward. Now touch Left toe back then put weight on it as body turns slightly to Left at the same time place Right hand forward as if shading eyes as Left hand goes back.

Now step forward on Right foot as both hands push coal cart forward. Step forward on Left foot and push cart forward.

ENDING: Step forward on Right foot with knee bend and bring both hands down and out to the side. Step forward on Left foot and straighten up. Bring Right foot down beside Left foot and clap. Now do 2 quick claps and one more clap. (The final clapping is slow, quick, quick, slow.)

Do the dance twice, then do 5 slow claps, and begin again. Note that the 5 clap interval comes every second time through the dance. Also it helps to know that you always begin the dance on the vocal.

Tanko Bushki

The other side of this record is WARAKU ODORI which means "Gentle Happiness." There are 2 dances done to this particular tune. One of them is done with hats. The music here is a little bit more difficult for American ears to adjust to, therefore it is suggested you teach Tanko Bushki first.

Note that the elements found in Tanko Bushki are all basic fundamentals for other Japanese dances. In teaching it, it is sometimes advisable to show the dance to a few people in advance and then have them wear kimonos or yukatas and present it as a demonstration first, and then teach it. It is also good not to teach it in a circle first but have dancers line up behind you so they can get a sense of direction. Also, it is good to first teach the hand motions, then the feet, before putting them together as it does require coordination to get them both going.