

# Tau Tai

(New Zealand)

This is a Maori canoe dance from New Zealand.

Pronunciation:

Music:

4/4 meter

Formation: Start sitting cross-legged with hands on knees while knees are bouncing to beat of the music for the entire dance.

## Pattern

### FIGURE A

L hand on waist, R arm reaches with index finger in front of L knee to make an arc on the floor to R side.

Repeat to L, reverse arms.

Slap knees and clap in front of body. R arm comes up and out to 45° with bent elbow and L arm out to side and slightly bent at elbow. 10x wave palms out, in.

### CHORUS

Hands at waist, R arm moves out to R and to front so palm faces as if to shake hands.

L arm and hand do the same.

Fingers fold in to knuckles, and back out, and then meet fingertips with palms facing body and arms straight out. Rock hands and arms 8x starting to R.

### FIGURE B

2x swim (head faces L, body leans fwd with straight back). R arm to front, L arm is back, arms "swim" by bending elbows slightly in and out.

Reverse head and arms and swim 2x from this side.

L hand to waist and R arm goes out in front, comes back to touch R shldr. Lift R hand slightly to make a small CW circle by R ear. R arm straight up on R side, and R hand down to cheek, bring L hand to R hand palms touching in sleep pos. Head turns to R and L for a total of 8 turns.

### CHORUS

Note: On last chorus rock hands 7x and slap knees on 8.

SEQUENCE: Fig A twice, Fig B twice, Fig A twice, Fig B twice. Chorus after every figure.

Presented by Merilyn Gentry and Nora Nuckles