

TOKYO DON TAKU  
Japanese Bon Dance  
Record Folk Dancer MH 2050

Tokyo Don Taku  
東京どんたく

This dance introduced to American Circles by Madelynn Greene. She learned it in Honolulu at Japanese communities. Here the Japanese observe the Buddhist Feast of the Dead with week-end dance Festivals in front of their temples. The musicians play on a raised stand in the middle of the circling dancers with banners and bunting and fluttering prayer scrolls. A huge drum stands beside the band stand and is performed upon by gyrating experts occasionally. The dancers wear cotton kimonos (Yukata), tabi and goaheads. The men dance more vigorously so they bind their foreheads with little, cotton towels given by each, temple to those who dance there.

Kimonos are very modest and quite restricting. The dance is done pigeon-toed with knees close together and a little bent. Hands are soft and graceful but the fingers are kept parallel with only the thumbs separating themselves from the flowing movement. The music has a strong first beat in a 4-beat measure.

**PART A** Starting Right foot, walk forward 2 steps clapping hands in front of chest. ( R.L.)  
1-2:  
3. Step forward on Right foot with slight crouch-dip, and at the same time spread both hands out to the side (like an umpire's out sign in baseball)  
and: Step back on Left foot. ( no clap)  
4: Step back on Right foot and clap both hands together

**PART B**  
1.2. Step forward on Left foot, step forward on Right foot ( toeing in) and at the same time move both arms down and back along side, Left hip first then along side right hips. ( like paddling a canoe).  
3 and 4 Take 3 quick steps forward L,R,L, and at the same time the hands do this:  
4 Left hand , palm back upright in front of Left ear. R hand is upright forward. Then bring Right hand in front of Right ear as Left hand is brought straight forward. Then bring Left hand in front of Left ear as Right hand is brought straight forward.  
CUE: Slow, Slow, quick, quick, quick/

**PART C**  
1 Step on Right ft turning body away from center to face wall and dip knee. Hands sweep below knees then start swooping around and up to meet overhead, palms out on next count 2.  
2. Bring Left foot to Right ankle ( you may touch Left toe to floor for balance) Hands are overhead.  
3. Turn to Left and step on Left facing center as hands start the "tree" swooping movement.  
4. Bring Right foot beside Left as hands meet overhead.

**PART D** Right hand with elbow bent is held so that palm is facing dancer's face. Left hand is held in front of waist as if holding kimono sleeve from swinging out. In this position Turn almost completely to Right with a modified buzz step ( step and step). Then raise Left hand with Right hand across waist and turn to Left in the same manner.

Repeat entire dance from beginning as many times as needed to fit record.

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