

# Topansko

## Macedonia

A "Turkish" or "oriental" woman's dance from the former Yugoslavia republic of Macedonia, (Slavic people in the Balkans tend to refer to several non-Slavic peoples and cultures - Turkish, Gypsy (Roma), Shiptar and Muslim people generally - rather loosely as "Turkish" or oriental," that is "from the east.") Lee Otterhold learned the dance from Ciga Despotovič in the late 70's. Mr. Despotovič (who passed away last year) was a well known folk dance teacher and former member of KOLO, Serbia's national performing group. Mr. Otterhold taught the dance at the 2003 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. Ciga originally taught the dance at the 1983 San Diego Folk Dance Conference.

TRANSLATION: "Topan" refers to a drum which is used in Macedonia and the surrounding countries.

PRONUNCIATION: toh-PAHN-skoh OH-roh

MUSIC: CD: Balkan and Beyond

Dances of European Ethnic Minorities (1999), by Lee Otterhold, #5.

ORIG. RECORD: Yugoslavia's Most Popular Historical Folk Dances by Ciga & Ivo Despotovič (LP), side A/2. (Originally taught under title of "Cigansko Kolo" on record, which is incorrect)

FORMATION: Open circle of W with hands joined in W-pos.

HANDS: When moving fwd in LOD, lead dancers R arm is slightly rounded and held in LOD, slightly above head ht. The hand rotates inward (cCW) on each ct.

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METER: 4/4

PATTERN

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Meas

**INTRODUCTION:** 8 meas, beg with clarinet

**FIG. I**

- 1 Facing and moving to R - step R,L fwd (cts 1-&); touch ball of L ft fwd - bend slightly fwd from waist (ct 2); take full wt on L where it touched (ct &); repeat cts 1-&-2-& with same ftwk (cts 3-&-3-&)
- 2 While turning to face ctr - step R in LOD - hands begin to swing fwd (ct 1); step L behind R - swing arms down to V-pos (ct 2); step R to R - begin to swing arms up (ct 3); step L across R - arms in W-pos. Note: Soft knee flexes on each step.

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- 3 Facing ctr and dancing inn place - step R in place as ball of L ft touches fwd on floor while twisting lower body to L (L heel twits R) (ct 1); with ball of L still on floor, twist body to R (L heel twists L) (ct 2); hop on R as L lifts slightly fwd (ct 3); step slightly bkwd on L (ct &); step R beside l (ct 4); step L slightly fwd (ct &).
- 4 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk. (Note that wt is now on the correct ft. That is, you only need to place the ball of the R ft fwd on the floor s you already have wt on L.)
- 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk.
- 6 Releasing hands - beg by stepping R fwd (twd ctr) (ct 1); stepping R,L,R, circling 1-1/4 CCW (1/4 turn per step) (cts 2-4). Clap hands 4 times in front of body at approx chest ht (one on each step). End facing LOD with hands joined in W-pos.

**FIG. II**

- 1 Repeat meas 1, Fig. I. (RL tch-step; LR tch-step)
- 2 Repeat meas 2, Fig. I. (R to R; L behind, R to R, LxR)
- 3 Repeat cts 1-2, meas 3, Fig. I, 2 times twice as fast (twist L ft 4 times (cts 1-&-2-&)).
- 4-5 Repeat meas 3, alternating ft. (3 times in all)
- 6 Small step R to R on ball of ft - while twisting R hip fwd and up (ct 1); step L in front of R with bent knee as R lifts low behind L - while twisting hips to face ctr (ct &); repeat 3 more times (cts 2-&-3-&-4-&). Ftwk is very small and close tog.

Repeat dance from beg, alternating between Fig. I and Fig II each time.

Original dance notes by Lee Otterholt

R&S'd from observation, video and Stockton & San Diego Conf. Errata by Dorothy Daw, 6-03.

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