

VARÍS HASÁPIKOS — Panhellenic

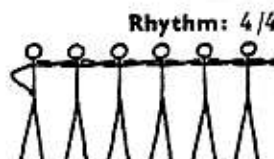
Βαρύς Χαράμικος

(Line dance for men, no partners)



Translation: Heavy or Moody Butcher's Dance.

Starting Position: "T" position. Left foot free.



Varís Hasápiκος is of very recent origin, first noted just after World War II in the waterfront *tavernes* where *bouzoúki* music is played. It is one of the very few folk dances which any visitor to Greece can find by himself, by visiting any *bouzoúki* tavern.

Usually at these places a group of friends at one table will be in the mood, one of them will contribute to the musicians' kitty, and the group will dance. The line of dancers is always short — two to about five men — because dancing space is small, because groups are friends gathered at one small table, and because the leader must telegraph his instant choreography along the line by the touch of the hand to the shoulder of the next.

The dance develops most completely under the free interpretation of the leader, as he and the rest feel it. Movements are generally slow and moody, body bent slightly forward, eyes looking down; being inellow with wine and good company helps many of the *taverna* dancers to be "in the mood".

As danced by Greeks there is no consistent order of steps, no special number of parts, no relation of steps. Yet there are certain patterns, groups of steps danced in the same order by groups of friends, etc.

Measure

- 1 **STEP FORWARD** on LEFT foot (count 1); **TOUCH** RIGHT foot slightly back (count 2), slightly forward (count 3), **Lift** (count 4).
- 2 **STEP BACKWARD** on RIGHT foot (count 1); **THRUST LEFT** foot slightly forward (count 2); **STEP BACKWARD** on LEFT foot (count 3); **THRUST RIGHT** foot slightly forward (count 4).

3 **Slide** sideward right on right foot (count 1), slide forward on left foot, bending knee slightly and keeping ball of right foot in place (count 2), rock back on right foot in place (count 3), pause OR touch ball of left foot lightly in place (count 4). *Variations:*

- a) Draw left foot across right instep OR raise left foot, bending knee (count 4);
- b) As any of the above but step on ball of right foot (count 3), lower right heel (count 4);
- c) As any of the above (counts 1-3), close and touch left foot beside right (count 3), pause (count 4), OR tap left heel in place or forward (count 5), raise left foot, bending knee (count 6).

Note: Though Greeks do not label this the "basic step", usually the *taverna* dancers end each of their patterns with some variation of the above.

DOUBLE CROSS OVER STEP RIGHT: Cross and step on right foot just in front of left (count 1), a small step sideward left on left foot (count 2), cross and step on right foot just in front of left (count 3); swing left foot in a small arc outward and around in front of right (count 4). Repeat, reversing direction and footwork, for Double Cross Over Step Left.

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Vary's Hasávikos, cont.

GRAPEVINE STEP LEFT starting with right foot: Cross and step on right foot in *front* of left (count 1), step sideward left on left foot (count 2), cross and step on right foot in *back* of left (count 3), step sideward left on left foot (count 4). Repeat, reversing direction and footwork, for Grapevine Step Right.

SINGLE CROSS OVER STEP LEFT Cross and step on right foot just in front of left (count 1), swing left foot in a small arc outward and around in front of right (count 2). Repeat, reversing footwork, for Single Cross Over Step Right.

STEP-TOUCH RIGHT Step on right foot (count 1), close and touch left foot beside right without taking weight (count 2). Repeat, reversing footwork, for Step-Touch Left. *Slow Step-Touch*: the same, but twice as long for each movement (counts 1-2 3-4).

THRUST: With knee bent, a light quick thrust of foot (usually of heel) by straightening then immediately bending (♩) knee (count 1).

Other Titles: Argós Hasávikos, Ἀργὸς Χασάβικος (Slow Hasávikos); Naftikós, Ναυτικό (Sailor's Dance); Pireótikos, Πειραιεύτικος (from Piréus, the seaport of Athens); etc.

Records: LP 3 - Folkraft
Festival 3508A, 3514A
FEZ 702-B

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Greek Dances and How to Do Them, Ted Petrides, Peters International, Inc., N.Y., N.Y., 1976.
Greek Folk Dances, Mary Vouras, Ricky Holden; Folkraft Press, Newark, N.J., 1965, pp. 56, 57.

I am indebted to the following people for their help, instruction, guidance spirit and good will in sharing their knowledge. I have borrowed much from GREEK FOLK DANCES (unfortunately, now out of print) and am grateful for the fine job that Mary Vouras did on that volume of dances, and the excellent book and record set by Ted Petrides, who did an incredible job in bringing together outstanding musical talent for the recordings. Because everyone in Greece was so generous with time and talent, I pass this material on in the same spirit.

MARY VOURAS, SIMON KARRAS-ATHENS, S.D.N.M.
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