

# ZENSKA SIPTARSKA IGRA

"Zenska siptarska igra" is, as the title implies a "Shiptar women's dance," that is, a women's dance from the Albanian, mostly Islamic minority, living, for the most part, in the Kosovo region of the Serbian Republic of the former Yugoslavia. I learned this dance from Ciga Despotovic, a well-known dance instructor from the former Yugoslavia.

*Formation:* open circle

*Handhold:* high handhold

*Dance description:*

<u>measure</u>	<u>steps</u>	(7/8 or 322 or SQQ, here counted 1, 2, 3)
1	Facing and moving to the right:	Cross left foot in front of right (1), step on right foot (2-3).
2	Long step on left foot (1),	step on ball of right foot to right (2), step on left foot (3).
3	Step on right foot to right, turning to face center (1),	touch ball of left foot next to right while raising and lowering left hip (2-3).
4	Step on left foot toward center (1),	touch ball of right foot next to left while raising and lowering right hip (2-3).
5	Facing slightly and moving to the left:	Long step on right foot in front of left (1), step on ball of left foot to left (2), cross and step on right foot in front of left (3).
6	Facing center:	Step on left foot to left (1), turning to face slightly to the right, bring right foot around in a smooth "C"-shape and step to the right (2), lift on right foot as left foot comes through to begin dance again (3).

Variation: Dancers can turn once around counter-clockwise during measure 5, either on own initiative or on first dancer's command. "Opa!"

*Presented by Lee Otterholt at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 1999*