

# Ajd' na livo

(Croatia)

This mixed circle dance (translated as "Let's go left") is done in the Pannonian Zone of Croatia in the regions of Slavonia, Srijem, and in the Dinaric Zone in the region of Lika during holidays and festive occasions. At one time, the dance was done to the accompaniment of a two-piped woodwind instrument, tambura "samica," or bagpipe (gajde). Today it is done to the accompaniment of a tambura orchestra.

Other ways to spell the name of the dance are "hajd' na levo," and "ajd na levo." The different spellings of the title reflect the various Croatian dialects that are spoken in the regions that this dance comes from. Other versions of this dance have been taught, and all of them are very similar.

The dance was researched by Željko Jergan in Slavonija and Baranja during 1978.

Pronunciation: IDE nah LEE-voh

Cassette: Treasury of Croatian Dances Side A/1 4/4, 2/4 meter

Formation: Closed circle, alternating M and W, facing ctr, joined in escort pos.  
Escort pos: R arm bent and across body at waist, L arm resting on neighbor's R arm.

Steps: Side-close: Step on L to L, upper body tilting very slightly twd R (not hips) (ct 1); step on R next to L, straightening body (ct 2); repeats cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).

Styling: Slow and smooth, when moving sdwd L and R (chorus). Parts I, II, and III are faster with drmeš (shaking) style movements (flat-footed steps).

## Meas

## Pattern

8 meas INTRODUCTION. Fast music. (Depends on recording being used.)

4/4 CHORUS (Slow music)

1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd L, do 4 Side-close steps (8 steps in all). Close but do not take wt on last step.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk moving sdwd R.

2/4 I. RUN FORWARD AND BACKWARD (Fast music)

1 Moving fwd twd ctr, low leap fwd onto L (ct 1); small flat-footed run fwd R, L (cts &, 2).

2-4 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk 3 more times (4 times in all), except do meas 4 in place with accent.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, moving bkwd.

4/4 CHORUS—REPEAT (Slow music)

2/4 II. DRMEŠ IN PLACE (Fast music)

1 Facing ctr and dancing in place with wt on both ft, bounce on both ft with bent knees (ct 1); bounce 2 more times on heels (drmeš/shake) (cts 2-&). Upper body leans slightly fwd.

2-8 Repeat meas 1 (8 bounces in all).

## Ajd' na livo—continued

4/4 CHORUS—REPEAT (Slow music)

2/4 III. BOUNCE, FORWARD, PAS DE BASQUE WITH STEP-HOP BACKWARD (Fast music)

- 1-2 Facing ctr and dancing in place, repeat Part II, meas 1-2 (2 sets of bounces).  
 3 Moving fwd twd ctr, do 4 small running steps R, L, R, L (cts 1, &, 2, &).  
 4 Step fwd on R (ct 1); hop on R as L lifts low in front of R (ct 2).  
 5 Pas de Basque L moving bkwd: leap bkwd on L (ct 1); step bkwd on R across L (ct &); step on L behind R (ct 2).  
 6 Step bkwd on R (ct 1); hop on R as L lifts low in front of R (ct 2).  
 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6, moving fwd twd ctr (Pas de Basque, step-hop R).

Repeat dance from the beginning one more time (2 times in all).

ENDING

- 1-4 Repeat Chorus.  
 1-15 Repeat Part I twice (except for last meas).  
 16 Stamp R, L in place.

## Song words:

Ajd' na livo, brate Ivo,  
 Ajd' na desno mila sestro.  
 //Nit' na livo, not' na deso  
 Već na isto mjesto.

Go to the left brother John,  
 Go to the right dear sister.  
 Not to the left, nor to the right,  
 But in the same place.

Original notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw  
 Presented by Željko Jergan