

## Ajnzerica (Croatia)

Ajnzerica (IGHN-zeh-ree-tsah) is a lively dance for couples or individuals from the region of Zagorje, which is located near Zagreb in the northwestern part of the country. According to the legends told by old villagers in Marija Bistrica (a town known for pilgrimages to its sanctuary of the same name), Rom musicians from around the town of Varaždin played this dance for church festivities. Villagers took the dance and music back to their own villages where it is still danced at weddings and on various holidays. Ajnzerica was researched by Željko Jergan in the village of Mače, near Marija Bistrica, in 1979. He has presented it at the 1995 Santa Barbara symposium, at workshops in southern California in January of 1996, at the San Francisco Kolo Festival in 1996, and at the University of Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 2000. The name of the dance is a nonsensical word; in some dialects it appears as *Enzerica*. The French yells during the Interlude come from Croatian mercenary soldiers who returned from fighting with French armies.

Music: Cassettes: Croatian Folk Dances, Vol. I by Jerry Grčevich, Side A/6; 2/4 meter  
Let's Dance by Skitnice, Side B/4.  
CD: A Road Less Traveled by Skitnice, Band 17.

Formation: Individuals or cpls (M is to L of ptr) in a closed circle, hands held down in V-pos.

Steps and Styling: Shoulder/Shoulder-blade pos\*.

Two-Step (1 to a meas): Danced in a flat-footed manner. Small leap onto L (ct 1), followed by 2 small running-style steps: step R near L (ct &), step fwd on L (ct 2). Step alternates. This step may be danced moving fwd, bkwd, or turning.

Jumps: All jumps are flat-footed and done with slightly bent knees.

Hands: When M's hands are free they are placed low on the hip with fingers fwd, thumbs back. W's hands are on the waist with fingers fwd and thumbs back.

Ftwk is small, close to the floor, and flat-footed.

\*Described in the "General Glossary" of *Steps & Styling (rev, 1996)*, published by the Folk Dance Federation of CA, Inc.

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Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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INTRODUCTION None.

### I. CLAPS AND JUMPS

1-4 Clap hands 8 times at about chest level.

5-8 With hands on hips, jump 8 times turning 1/4 R (CW) on each jump. Jumps are heavy, flat-footed, and with ft slightly apart and knees bent. Note that this sequence makes 2 complete turns; 1 turn is optional.

9-12 Repeat meas 5-8 turning to the L (CCW).

- 13-14 Facing ctr, stamp R ft 3 times in place without wt (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2). Options are to jump 3 times in place, or jump 3 times while making 1 complete turn to R.

## II. THE BOX

- 1 Facing ctr, with hands joined down, step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
- 2 Bounce on both heels (ct 1); step on L to L (ct 2); move R ft twd L (ct &).
- 3 Step fwd on R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
- 4 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2).
- 5 Bounce on both heels in place (ct 1); step bkwd on L (ct 2).
- 6 Close R to L with small bounce on heels (ct 1); bounce again on heels (ct 2).
- 7-8 Step on R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2); repeat (meas 8).
- 9-14 Repeat meas 1-6.
- 15-16 Stamp R 3 times slightly fwd (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2). Option is to jump on both ft 3 times.
- 17-32 Repeat meas 1-16.

## III. TOWARD CENTER AND BACK

- 1-3 Moving fwd twd ctr, dance 3 Two-Steps starting with L, alternating ftwk. Cpls begin with outside ft.
- 4 Jump onto both ft with ft slightly apart (ct 1); hold (ct 2). Jump can be accented with a yell.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 moving bkwd, starting on R ft. Cpls begin with inside ft.
- 9-10 Make small flat-footed leap onto L ft slightly to L (ct 1); step R (ct &); step L in place (ct 2). Cpls turn head slightly twd ptr, but without twisting body. Repeat to R with opp ftwk, cpls turn head to face ctr (meas 10).
- 11-12 Stamp L ft 3 times slightly fwd (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2). Option is to jump 3 times in place.
- 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12.

## INTERLUDE

- 1-2 During this 4 ct pause in the music, yell "répétez" (French for "repeat"). It is also permissible to clap 3 times (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2).

Repeat dance from the beginning. With the Skitnice music, the dance is done through 3 times. If the cpl version of the dance is being done, substitute Fig. IIIA for Fig. III on the third time through.

III.A. TWO-STEPS WITH JUMPS

- 1-3 Cpls take Shoulder/Shoulder-blade pos with M face LOD. Beg M's L, W's R, turn CW (to L) 1 1/2 times with 3 Two-Steps moving a little in LOD and ending with M facing RLOD.
- 4 Jump onto both ft (ct 1); hold (cts 2, 3).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction. Turn CCW (to R) 1 1/2 times while moving a little in RLOD. M end facing LOD.
- 9-10 Beg M's L, W's R, turn CW (L) one complete turn with 2 Two-Steps.
- 11-12 Do 3 jumps in place, flat-footed and with emphasis (cts 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2).
- 13-24 Repeat meas 1-12.

Presented by Lone Coleman and Mark Anderson  
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