

Devojče Tanko

Bulgaria

Bulgarian dance, learned by Lee Otterholt from Belcho Stanev, famous Bulgarian dance teacher living in Varna, Dobrudza, Black Sea coast of (Eastern) Bulgaria.

RHYTHM: 4/4 counted here, quite simply, as "one, two, three, four."

FORMATION: Open circle, Handhold: Both low handhold ("V") and high handhold ("W").
Begin with high handhold ("W").

METER: 4/4

PATTERN

Meas

I. FIRST FIGURE (In, out, touches)

- 1 Facing center: Step R ft in and bounce slightly (1-2). Step back on L ft and bounce slightly as R ft is brought around and behind L ft (3-4).
- 2 Step on R ft behind L and bounce slightly (1-2). Gently kick L ft fwd, then lift R heel as L ft is brought around and behind R ft (3-4).
- 3 Step on L ft behind R (1-2). Touch ball of R ft fwd (3). Bouncing slightly on L ft, lift R knee and leg (4).
- 4 Walk two short steps R,L forward toward center (1,2). Leaning slightly fwd from waist, touch ball of R ft directly fwd toward center (3). Touch ball of R ft next to heel of L ft (4).
- 5 Repeat meas 1.
- 6 Repeat meas 2.
- 7 Repeat meas 3, but touch ball of R ft slightly diagonally R on "3."
- 8 Facing and moving LOD, step R ft to the side (1), step on L ft crossed in front of R (2), step on R ft to the side (3), step on L ft crossed behind R (4).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

II. SECOND FIGURE (Crosses, brush, and turn)

- 1 Facing and moving RLOD, bring arms down to "V" position and step on R ft crossed in front of L (1), lift heel of R ft from floor and turn body to face LOD (2), moving LOD, step on L ft crossed in front of R (3), step on R ft to side (4).
- 2 Step on L ft crossed in front of R (1), turn body twd center, holding R leg behind body and leaning slightly frwd from waist (2), bringing arms back up to "W" position and body back up to upright position, brush R ft forward (3), lift L heel from floor, R leg lifted in front, knee bent (4).
- 3 Bend L knee and dip R ft nearer floor (1), lift L heel from floor, lifting R leg in front again (2), release hands and beginning gradually to bring arms down to "V" position, begin turning CW while moving in LOD by stepping on R (3), stepping on L (4).
- 4 Continue turning CW and moving in LOD by stepping on R ft. (1), stop turning by stepping on L ft crossed in front of R (2), turning body toward center, touch ball of R ft twd center (3), touch ball of R ft diagonally forward and to the R (4).
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times (four times in all).

Note that arm positions must be changed (gradually and gracefully) when changing from one figure to the other. When repeating a figure, hands are already in correct position and need not be changed.

*Dance description by Lee Otterholt
Presented by Lee Otterholt at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2002*