

## THE DODEKANESIAN SOUSTAS

These dances also stem from an early Greek war dance differing, however, from the Cretan Sousta in that it stresses the unit as a whole; i.e., the fighting line. The dance demands close body contact with the adjacent man and (giving the best shield protection) stresses the kind of movement one would have in a short wind-up and throw of a javelin or slingshot, or over-hand strike with a sword; then a retreat back into position. The movement is also symbolic of caiques setting out to sea, being swept back for a moment, but moving relentlessly forward through the waves. But of greater importance than the above was the conditioning this dance gave to men who served as sailors or marines and who had to work in unison on a rolling or pitching ship in order to raise or lower sails, swing booms, move cargo, and any one of the numerous tasks which involves teamwork. (See Pentozalē.)

Today women also do the dance and the close formation is maintained by the basket-weave hold. The leader on the right does variations on the steps and performs various spins, leaps and acrobatics, smacking the soles and heels of his feet with his hands.

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## IKARIOTIKO

*Characteristics:* Since this island is close to the Dodekanese group, this dance is similar to the Sousta of these islands. However, it starts off like a Hassapiko, passing through an intermediate form similar to the Leriko before going into the third section. The first and second sections are performed

as introductions to the dance. It begins smoothly with even steps, picking up speed and then becomes fast and jiggy.

*Formation:* Open circle moving counter-clockwise with regular W handhold or shoulder hold.

*Time:* 2/4

*Steps:*

I.

- 1 Side r.
- 2 Cross l. behind r.
- 1 Side r.
- 2 Cross l. in front of r.
- 1 Side l.
- 2 Cross r. in front of l.

II.

- 1 Side r.
- 2 Cross l. behind r.
- 1 Side r., swinging l. across r.
- 2 Side l. and step r. quickly up to l.
- 1 Side l.
- 2 Hop on l., crossing r. in front of l.

III.

- 1 Side r.
- 2 Hop on r., carrying l. along next to it, and quickly step on l. just in back of r.
- 1 Side r., swinging l. across r.
- 2 Side l. and step r., quickly up to l.
- 1 Side l.
- 2 Hop on l., crossing r. in front of l.

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