

JARABE TABATIO—"Mexican Hat Dance"
National Dance of Mexico
Records: Imp. 1002; Folkcraft, 119;
Peerless 1918; Victor 23-5901, etc.

Basic Step: Jarabe step: Step on Rt. foot; step on left foot close to right instep, step on right foot. (This is like a very small two-step, accenting the first count.) Repeat starting with the left foot.

Formation: Start with couples facing each other, holding hands (man's right, lady's left hand). On introduction she turns under their joined hands, and both move back about two or three short steps. Man's hands are behind his back, lady holds skirt out to side.

Part 1: (a) Using basic Jarabe step, move toward partner with 11 of these steps, end with stamp on Rt. foot, step right-shoulder-to-right-shoulder. Continue in same direction to partner's place with Jarabe steps, turning to right with 13th & 14th steps, and a stamp on R.

(b) Use same floor pattern as above (to the center & stamp, across & turn & stamp). Cue words: "heel-step, toe-step". Thus: step on right heel slightly in front of 1 ft; step on left foot, step on right toe slightly back (but not behind) of left foot; step on left foot.

(c) Using Jarabe step, go all the way to partner's place. Use 11 Jarabe steps to get there and turn around. End with stamp on right.

Part 2: Run lightly forward, R.L.R. & turn to right (do a complete turn to right, crossing left over--this is done in center, close to partner). Repeat step, to opposite side, but with $\frac{1}{2}$ turn at end to face partner. Turn to right with 3 "push" or "buzz" steps & a stamp (or the turn may be done with steps & a stamp. Turn in same way to left, & repeat turns to right & to left. Repeat All.

Part 3: "Atole Step" This is sort of a waltz step. On count "1", "Fall" forward onto right foot; on count "2", step on left foot, on "3", step on Right, close to Left foot. Repeat starting with left. (You travel forward, even though this is sort of a "front-back-back" step). Do 6 of these "Atole" steps to opposite side. (Do not stop at center) Cross right over left & do 6 little-rocking steps, as you turn to right to face partner. Repeat to cross back.

Part 4: "Hojas de te" Cue words: heel-step-toe-step, chug. This is similar to step 2 but ends with a little chug. Do these steps to center & stamp, then continue on across & turn and stamp R. Each should be in own original place.

Part 5: Run lightly forward: R,L,R, & cross L over R to turn to R. Do "push" step back to place. Repeat twds. center: R.L.R. & cross L over R to turn right, but remain there as man takes off hat and throws it on the floor, and do "buzz" turn or steps around hat. Then the lady steps inside the brim of the hat and does the little "ankle rocking" steps as the man does a polka step clung forward R. on first count and lifting L high in back) (Lady is turning to L as man goes around her clockwise.) Then lady sinks down to pick up hat as man swings Rt. foot over her head. He helps her up. They stand side-by-side facing front. Lady places man's hat on her head.

Skip forward 4, back 4, forward 4, back 4. Do a "heel, toe, heel, toe" with right, then a "heel-toe-heel-toe" with the left foot. Repeat the "Heel-toes". Skip forward back 4, forward 4 (or in place 4), then turn the lady under her left hand.

Ending: Man kneels on left knee as lady places left toe on man's right knee.

Or: Both hide behind hat and pretend to kiss!