

KOTCHARI  
(Pontos)

The Kotchari is one of the most popular and well known Pontian dances today. Originally associated with the Pontian communities established in the Russian Caucasus in the 19th Century, the Kotchari has become pan-Pontian. Indeed, along with the Tik, it is rapidly becoming pan-Hellenic in popularity among the non-Pontians of Northern Greece. The name Kotchari is derived from "kotsi" or "kotchi" meaning "ankle bone", hence Kotchari: large ankle bone. Other dance names from a similar etymology are "Kots" and "Kotsangel". The term is also related to the Greek word for limping: "koutsos".

FORMATION: Open or closed circle, hands on shoulders.

METER: 2/4

MEAS

BASIC PATTERN

- 1 Facing fwd: Bounce or sl hop on L, swinging R up low and across L (ct 1); Step R to the R (2); Step L behind and to the R (3); Step R to the R (4).
- 2 Touch L slightly fwd (1)\*\*; Step L bk next to R (2); Hop on L, Lifting R low up (3), Step R bk in place with emphasis (lifting L heel sl off ground) (&); Rock weight bk onto L, lifting R sl off ground (4).

NOTE: \*\* In count 1, Meas 2, the touch step is accompanied by 2 quick bounces often in a manner in which the actual body weight is balanced between R & L. Often it is performed thus: Balance wgt (ct 1); Rock bk onto R (ct &); Rock bk onto L (ct 3).

NOTE: Many Pontians, especially the younger generation, start the dance on Count 2 of Meas 1 transposing the dance 1 count to the right. This is standard for performing groups because it makes it easier to choreograph figures.

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