

KRIVOTO  
(The Crooked Dance)

Source: Stoiche Karanfilov, dancer with the Macedonian National Folk Ensemble TANEC born and raised in the Voden area in southern Macedonia

Recording: "Dances of Southern Macedonia" (custom cassette)

This dance from the Voden area in southern Macedonia (now part of Greece) is about 150 years old. It was commonly done at weddings and festival days, but is not seen much at present. The dance was originally done by men only, but more recently women have begun to dance in a separate line.

The dance is composed of two parts, slow (in 4/4 rhythm) followed by fast (2/4). The formation is as follows: an open circle of men in either belt hold or with hands joined at sides, followed by an open circle of women with hands joined at sides. The two circles may be linked by a kerchief held with one end in the last man's L hand and the other in the first woman's R hand.

The footwork of the slow part is flat-footed and somewhat heavy, but the upper body is held very erect and the movements are very stately. In the fast part the footwork is a little more up on the balls of the feet and the movements are more lively.

Slow Part

Figure I

- Meas 1 Facing CCW (LOD), step forward on R foot (1) bend R knee slightly (&) straighten R knee bringing L foot up behind R knee (2). Repeat action of counts 1,&,2 with opposite footwork (3,&,4).
- Meas 2-4 Repeat action of measure 1 three more times.
- Meas 5 Turning to face center, step on R foot to R (1) bend R knee slightly (&) straighten R knee bringing L foot up behind R knee (2) hold (3,4).
- Meas 6 Step back on L foot, bending knee and swinging R leg around to R in a wide arc (1) straighten L knee bringing R foot up behind L knee (2) bend L knee (3) straighten L knee (4)
- Meas 7 Bend L knee (1) straighten L knee (2) keeping L foot stationary, turn body about 30° to L (3) turn back to center (4)
- Meas 8 Repeat action of measure 7.

Figure II

- Meas 1 Facing CCW (LOD), step forward on R foot (1) bend R knee slightly (&) straighten R knee bringing L foot up behind R knee (2) hold (3,4).
- Meas 2 Repeat action of measure 1 reversing footwork.
- Meas 3-4 Repeat action of measures 1-2.

KRIVOTO (continued)

Figure II (contintued)

- Meas 5 Step foward on R foot bending knee and bringing L foot forward toward R calf (1) step back on L foot bending knee and bringing R foot back in front of L shin (2) step forward on R foot bending knee and bringing L foot forward toward R calf (3) straighten R knee bringing L foot up behind R knee (4)
- Meas 6 Repeat action of measure 5 reversing footwork.
- Meas 7-8 Repeat action of measures 5-6

Figure III

- Meas 1-4 Repeat action of measures 1-4, Figure II.
- Meas 5 Men: Turn to face center and step to R on R foot (1) kneel on L knee placing knee beside R foot (2) kneel on R knee a little to R so both knees are on the ground but weight is now on R knee (3) step on L foot beside R knee, rising to standing position (4)  
Women: Turning to face center, step to R on R foot (1) step on L foot behind R (2) step to R on R foot (3) turning back into line of direction, step forward on L foot (4)
- Meas 6 Repeat action of measure 5.

Fast Part

Basic

- Meas 1 Facing CCW (LOD), leap forward onto R foot (1) hop on R foot raising L leg forward with bent knee (2)
- Meas 2 Leap forward on L foot (1) hop on L foot raising R leg forward with bent knee (2)
- Meas 3 Turning to face center, leap to R on R foot (1) hop on R raising L leg forward with knee bent (2)
- Meas 4 Hop on R foot swinging L foot around behind R knee in a wide arc (1) jump in place on both feet about shoulder width apart (2)
- Meas 5 Turning to face LOD, leap onto L foot in place raising R foot forward with bent knee (1) hop on L foot (2)
- Variant: Same as Basic but on count 1 of measure 5, jump in place on both feet together, then leap onto L on count 2.