

MOLDOVAN

Croatian dance (Podravina region) presented by Mitch Allen.

The name *Moldovan* (MOLE-doh-vahn) refers to the probably Moldavian origins of this dance. Soldiers from the Podravina region served in the army of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and some were stationed in Moldavia. It is thought that they either learned the dance from the local Moldavians or invented it in imitation of their Moldavian hosts.

Moldovan was first recorded by Dr. Ivan Ivančan, former director of the Lado Ensemble, who noted it down from 96-year-old Martin Brcković in the village of Novo Virje in 1955. The dance is apparently quite old and is known only from Brcković's village and a few others in the area.

Moldovan is danced with (or over) a rolling pin. Similar dances with rolling pins or sticks are known from Moldavia. The use of sticks is also known from other areas of the Balkans, including the nearby district of Banat and in neighboring Hungary. Brcković indicated that the dance is sometimes done with bottles carried on the head.

The style of this dance is heavy, jarring and flat-footed, with body erect and all movement located in the legs only. Brcković described the dancers as "stiff as a candle".

The choreography presented here is the one taught at the First Aman Institute in 1971. It was presented by Billy Burke, who learned it directly from Ivančan at the Folk Dance Seminar in Badija, Yugoslavia, in 1970.

Recordings: (a) Aman 101, *Moldovan*; (b) Jugoton LSY 63059 (part of *Podravski svati*); (c) Jugoton LSY 61203, *Moldovan*.

Meter: 4/4, four dancer's beats (counts) per measure.

Formation: Concentric circles of men and women, men on the inside with their backs to the center, women facing. All have hands on hips. Rolling pin (if used) should be to the R of Rft and somewhat forward of the dancer on the floor.

MEAS

ACTION

Step 1

- 1 With feet shoulder-width apart, lift both heels off floor (1) and drop onto heels (2); repeat (3,4).
- 2-4 Repeat meas 1 (a total of 8 drops).
- 5 Step-hop in place on Lft, flat-footed, with R leg straight and crossed slightly over L in front (1,2); step-hop on Rft (3,4).
- 6 Repeat movements of meas 5.
- 7 4 hops on Lft (1,2,3,4) with legs as in meas 5.

(continued)

MOLDOVAN (concluded)

MEAS	ACTION
<u>Step 1 (continued)</u>	
8	4 scissors steps (1,2,3,4), kicking Lft out first and making all kicks small and close to ground.
9	Repeat movements of meas 8.
10	Jump onto both feet in place (1); lift Lft, shifting weight to Rft (2); touch L heel to floor in front of Rft (3); hold (4).
11	Leap to R, landing on Rft on other side of rolling pin (1,2); touch L heel to floor in front of Rft (3); hold (4).
12	Repeat movements of meas 11 with opposite footwork.
REPEAT ENTIRE STEP 1	
<u>Chorus Step</u>	
1	4 hops on Rft (1,2,3,4) with L leg straight and slightly off ground, body gradually turning R until L leg extends over rolling pin.
2	Leap onto Lft (1); step Rft (2); step Lft (3); still facing R, hold (4).
3-4	Repeat movements of meas 1-2 with reverse footwork.
5-8	Repeat movements of meas 1-4.
<u>Step 2</u>	
1-4	Repeat heel drops of Step 1.
5	Repeat step-hops (Lft, Rft) of Step 1.
6	4 scissors steps, kicking Rft forward first (1,2,3,4)
7	4 hops on Lft (as in Step 1, meas 7).
8	4 hops on Rft.
9	Jump on both feet in place (1); leap into air, clicking heels together (2); repeat (3,4).
10-12	Repeat meas 10-12 of step 1.
REPEAT ENTIRE STEP 2.	
REPEAT ENTIRE CHORUS STEP.	
REPEAT ENTIRE DANCE FROM BEGINNING.	