

PARALIAKOS

Greek dance learned from Giorgios Lelakis (well-known Cretan dance teacher) who learned it from friends from the island of Rhodes, where the dance comes from. "Paraliakos" means "by the seaside," and Giorgios calls the dance "the beach dance." The dance is sometimes also called "Xasteria." Giorgios claims the dance is related to dances like "Gaitenaki rodou." The melody is sometimes also referred to as "Vratsera," a type of boat mentioned in the song text.

Formation: long curved line (or, sometimes, a large circle)

Handhold: either front basket (right arm under, left over) or low handhold.

Dance description:

<u>count</u>	<u>steps</u>
1 & 2, 3	Facing slightly and moving to the right: left foot crosses in front of right (1), right foot to the right, slightly on the ball of the foot (&), left foot crosses in front of right again (2), sway a little to the right on the right foot, turning slightly to the left (3).
4, 5	Sway a little to the left on the left foot, turning slightly to the right (4), step straight forward into the center on the right foot (5).
6 & 7, 8	Step diagonally backwards out of the circle on the ball of the left foot (6), close and step (small "jump") on right foot next to left (&), cross and take weight on left foot behind right (and "push off" from right foot) (7), step on right foot to the right (8).

(Steps 5, 6 & 7 together describe a backwards "D" floor pattern.)

Even though the dance steps go in a regular 8-count pattern, the music is, for the most part, not in phrases of eight, so the dance phrase and music phrase do not coincide. As a result you could begin anywhere you want in the music (as long as it is on a count and not the offbeat!) Another consequence of this non-concurrence is that you could (theoretically) begin the dance at any point in the dance phrase. I begin as Giorgios did, as this seems to be traditional.

* Start on the 4th note