

PIDICHTOS

TSAMIKOS (FROM EPIRUS)
Men's dance from northern Greece
(16-COUNT)

The tsamic and klephtic dances were born in the northern part of Greece, that is Epirus (Tsamidon region). The Armatoli or Klephts (warriors) adopted them and gave to them their martial character. There is no other Greek dance that has a more dramatic character. Legend pretends that this is the one Homer described when it was danced around Achille's funeral pyre.

Today the variations of the leader and the character of the song, full of war descriptions, and music that accompanied the dance still preserved this heroic feeling and tense masculine expression. With modern time and new mode of transportation this dance went south and was transformed into a simpler version known even here in the USA.

Technically speaking the Tsamiko falls in the leaping dances category rather than to the syrto or dragging dances.

Learned in Athens in 1957.

RECORD: O ILIOS on Festival F-3502

Formation: Chain of male dancers with leader at right.
Hands joined at shoulder height.
RF cross over LF before starting.

Rhythm: 3/4 or 3/8 broken into 1 plus 2 and 3, or SLOW-quick.

Measure	Count	Pattern
1	SLOW 1	RF to right.
	quick 2	LF cross in front of RF
2	SLOW 3	Point RF forward right oblique
	quick 4	Step on RF in back of LF
3	SLOW 5	Point LF forward
	quick 6	Cross and step on LF in front of RF
4	SLOW 7	Stamp on RF at right
	quick 8	Hop on RF kicking LF up behind Knee high, body facing CW
5	SLOW 9	LF to left
	quick 10	RF to left.
6	SLOW 11	LF to left.
	quick 12	Hop on LF and kick RF up
7	SLOW 13	RF to right.
	quick 14	LF cross in front of RF
8	SLOW 15	Point RF forward right oblique
	quick 16	Cross RF over LF

NOTE: Counts 1-8 are going CCW
Counts 9-12 are going CW
Counts 13-16 are going CCW