

PLESKAVAC
PLJESKAVAC

(Serbia)

Dances with stamping and clapping motifs are to be found throughout the Balkans. Nowadays they are the domain of young school children for the most part, although there is some evidence that they were once done in villages and in urban ballrooms as sort of pleasant novelties. There are two dances named "Pljeskavac" (PLYEH-skah-vahtz - "Clapping dance") in the repertoire of Yugoslav Americans. The one described here can be traced back to turn-of-the-century Serbia, where it was also known as "Pljeskavica." It was learned by Dick Crum at Folk Dance House in New York City from Michael Herman and members of the Banat Tamburitza Orchestra, who perform it on the recommended recording.

Recording: Folk Dancer MH 1009, "Pljeskavac"

Formation: Open circle or line of dancers, mixed M and W, with hands joined and held naturally down at sides ("V" position)

Music: The melody is in 2/4 time and has two parts, A and B.

MEASURE ACTION

Part I - Basic "Devojačko kolo" step

- 1 Two step-hops (R-hop, L-hop)(cts 1 & 2 &), moving diagonally fwd/R so that the circle contracts while moving R.
- 2 One Schottische step (R-L-R-hop) continuing in this same direction (cts 1 & 2 &).
- 3 Facing center, back straight out with 2 step-hops (L-hop, R-hop) (cts 1 & 2 &).
- 4 Step in place L-R-L and pause (cts 1 & 2).
- 5-8 Repeat movements of meas 1-4.

Part II - Stamps and claps

- 9 Two walking steps toward center, R-L (cts 1, 2).
- 10 Three stamps in place, R-L-R and pause (cts 1 & 2).
- 11 Two walking steps backing out from center, L-R (cts 1, 2).
- 12 Clap own hands together in front three times (cts 1 & 2) and pause.
- 13-16 Repeat movements of meas 9-12.

Presented by Dick Crum