

SETNJA
Serbia

PRONUNCIATION: Shet'-nyah ("Walking")

SOURCE: Learned from Miodrag Vukovic, Belgrade folk dancer, 1954, and observed at many gatherings in rural Sumadija, Serbia.

RECORD: MH 3029 "Setnja", by Duquesne University Tamburitzans.

FORMATION: Open circle. During the slower, beginning part of the dance, a sort of "escort" hold is used: leader holds vest with RH and grasps his own belt with LH. Other dancers join on, grasping or hooking onto R neighbor's bent L elbow, keeping own L elbow bent, placing LH on own hip or belt. When the music speeds up and the faster variant begins, dancers join hands down at sides.

NOTE: In Sumadija, the central part of Serbia, "Stenja" is a time-honored traditional dance with the definite place in the "program". When a young man arrives at the field or churchyard where a festivity is taking place, he seeks out one of the many gypsy musicians who have come to town for the day, pays him a certain amount of money to play for him, and then proceeds to gather his friends one by one on his left. The dance they ordinarily do is "Setnja" and they may meander about the whole dancing area gathering up people. When a large enough circle is formed, the dance is speeded up, ended & "Moravac" ("U sets") follows.

Measures	PATTERN
1	<u>Part 1</u> ("Walking") – Escort position. Ct 1 Moving R, step with R ft. Ct 2 Continuing R, step with L ft.
2	Ct 1 Continuing R, step with R ft. Ct & Continuing R, step with L ft. Ct 2 Continuing R, step with R ft. Ct & Pause, turning to face center.
3	Ct 1 Step with L ft behind R heel, moving backward. Ct 2 Step with R ft behind L heel, moving backward.
4	Ct 1 Step backward <u>very slightly</u> with L ft. Ct & Close R ft beside L ft. Ct 2 Turning to R, step L ft across in front of R ft. Ct & Pause.

NOTE: A very gently, almost imperceptible flex comes after every beat throughout Part 1. In Part 2, this flex becomes a definite hop.

Setnja (con't)

Part 2 ("Hopping") – Hands joined down at sides. At that point in the music where the tempo accelerates markedly, dancers join hands at sides, and add hops to the above steps as follows:

- 1
Ct 1 Moving R, step-hop on R ft.
Ct 2 Continuing R, step-hop on L ft.

- 2
Ct 1 Continuing R, step with R ft.
Ct & Continuing R, step with L ft.
Ct 2 Continuing R, step with R ft.
Ct & Hop on R ft, turning to face center.

- 3
Ct 1 Step with L toe behind R heel.
Ct & Hop on L toe, bringing R ft around in back.
Ct 2 Step on R toe behind L heel.
Ct & Hop on R toe.

- 4
Ct 1 Step back very slightly with L ft.
Ct & Close R ft beside L ft.
Ct 2 Turning to R, step L ft across in front of R ft.
Ct & Hop on L ft, continuing R.