

# Podravski Drmeš

(Podravina, Croatia)

Podravski Drmeš is one of the most popular and persistent dances of this region of Croatia. There are footwork improvisations for the men, not usually for women. Characteristics include slow traveling for the couples and slow turning movements, unless a rapid spin figure is used. Couples on traveling may rotate either CW or CCW at man's discretion (although couples more commonly and more often rotate CW). Any attempt to notate this dance in conventional folkdancer notation creates something that is no longer the dance, since it looks at a "snap-shot" rather than a "video," or it freezes one sequence as the norm. So, it will be notated as to steps, and then the parameters of choreography and improvisation will be described. Add this to the characteristics above and you have the Podravina variant of the Drmeš.

## Pronunciation:

Cassette: Barry Glass Special tape – Stockton 1996 2/4 meter

Formation: Couples scattered about the dance floor. Shldr-waist pos or a shldr-waist pos in which the M makes a circle of thumb and 2nd fingers which are on ptr's waist, other fingers loosely gathered. When rapid twirling figure is chosen, 2 cpls may join together in a small circle, back-basket hold.

Steps: Basic Drmeš: (M's ftwk and direction described. W do opposite.)

With L slightly ahead of R, bounce twice on both heels (cts 1, &); step on L (cts 2, &). Repeat with opp ftwk.

Note: This step may move fwd or back, or to either side, or in a slow cpl rotation. It is a fairly light, almost "laid-back" movement style.

### Two-Couple Spin:

Two cpls make a small circle and, with back-basket hole, spin rapidly CW. Ftwk is same for all. Step strongly (with sound) on R slightly into circle (ct 1), L ft may raise slightly in back; step sdwd on L to L (ct &); repeat cts 1, & (cts 2, &). Figure is done 16 times in all.

### Man's Ftwk Variant #1

Step on L, knee slightly bent (ct 1); hit R next to L (ct &); repeat cts 1, & with opp ftwk (cts 2, &).

### Man's Ftwk Variant #2

Step on L, knee slightly bent (ct 1); hit R next to L (ct &); hop on L (ct 2); hit R next to L (ct &). Step alternates.

Variants #1 and #2 can be used in combination.

### Man's Ftwk Variant #3

Meas 1: Step lightly sdwd on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct &); step sdwd on L to L (ct 2); hit R next to L (ct &),

Meas 2: Step on R (ct 1); stamp L next to R (ct &); hop on R (ct 2); hit L next to R (ct &). Repeat at will.

## Podravski Drmeš — continued

Man's Ftwk Variant #4

Meas 1: Light jump onto both ft, R ft slightly in front (ct 1); jump onto both ft side-by-side and slightly apart (ct &); step on L in place (ct 2); hit R next to L (ct &).

Meas 2: Hop on L (ct 1); hit R next to L (ct &); repeat cts 1, & (cts 2, &).  
Step repeats at will.

Note: These last two ftwk variants appear when cpl is staying in place or when rotating.

The dance moves about the floor, M leading with step and directional changes consistent with the music.

Presented by Barry Glass