

POSAVSKI DRMEŠI

Croatia



Posavina is the fertile lowland extending through Croatia along the Sava River. Political, economic and cultural conditions have made it possible for the local population to live with a healthy, happy and optimistic outlook which is reflected through the dances and songs of this region. The accompaniment for the dances was traditionally with a bagpipe, but today is mostly with the tamburitza orchestra. *Željko Jergan researched these dances from Croatian Posavina from 1974 to the present days.*



TRANSLATION: Shaking dances from Posavina
PRONUNCIATION: POH-sahv-ski DER-mesh-ee
MUSIC: CD "Resonance of Croatia", Band # 15
FORMATION: Closed circles of 8-12 dancers, joined in back-basket hold (L over R). Traditionally, a circle would have an unlimited number of dancers, but this is not practical for recreational purposes.

STEPS: Three basic steps: Šetnja (a walking/buzz step); Drmeš (shaking); Vrtnja (spin turn). These steps can be combined without any set rules. The special style from this region is the contrasting movements from shaking to very fluid.

Šetnja: It can be done with a SMOOTH walking step or with a slight down-up movement as in a buzz step.

When moving to L - step R across L (ct 1); step L fwd (ct 2). When moving to R, beg L across R.

Drmeš: Starts by stepping on R. Keep ft parallel about 5" apart with L about 2" fwd of R.

Step R beside L with bounce (ct 1); bounce on R as full L ft taps floor slightly to L, wt evenly distributed (ct 2); bounce again on R while taking full wt on L where it tapped (ct &). Repeat with opp ftwk.

Vrtnja: Can be done with the slower SMOOTH single count step or done quickly in double-time with move of a buzz step feeling.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: See below.

DRMEŠ #1: ŠETNJA; STAMPS; ROCK IN & OUT

Back basket hold.

1-6 Hold in place 1st time through dance. 2nd and 3rd time replace "hold" with meas 9-14 (6 cross-over steps).

7-8 Stamp R,L,R,L in place (cts 1-2, 1-2).

9-14 Moving to L - do 12 SMOOTH walking steps (i.e., 6 cross-over steps) beg stepping R across L.

- 15-16 Continuing to move L - stamp R,L,R,L.
- 17 Step R in front of L twd ctr with double bounce (ct 1-2).
- 18 Step L slightly diag L bkwd out of circle with double bounce (ct 1-2).
- 19-22 Repeat meas 17-18, stepping in and out, twice more (total of 3 in & out steps).
Note: During meas 17-18 the circle move slowly to L.
- 23-24 Stamp R,L,R,L in place (cts 1-2, 1-2).
- 25-32 Repeat meas 17-24. (in & out, stamps)
- 33-36 Moving L - do 7 SMOOTH walking steps (i.e., 4 cross-over steps) (cts 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1); hold (ct 2).
- 37 Step L to L (sway), bending then straightening knees, leave R toe where it stepped (ct 1-2).
- 38 Sway R onto R, as in meas 36 (ct 1-2).
- 39-40 Repeat meas 37-40.
Cue: 4 sways, LRLR
- 41-80 Repeat dance from beg, moving to R with opp ftwk.
- 81-110 Repeat dance from beg through meas 32, move to L. End with rock in & out step.

DRMEŠ #2: DRMEŠ & BUZZ

- 1-7 Moving sdwd to L - do 7 drmeš steps, beg by stepping on R.
- 8 Transition: Step R beside L (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, with opp ftwk direction. (beg L, move R)
- 17-24 Moving to L - do 8 buzz steps, beg R across L. On last ct, hold with wt on R as L circles fwd.
- 25-32 Moving to R - repeat meas 17-24 with opp ftwk.
Note: Slight down-up (flat-ball) feeling.
- 33-64 Repeat meas 1-32. (2 times in all)

DRMEŠ #1:

- 1-8 Repeat drmeš #1, meas 1-16 (6 cross-over; stamps)
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 (6 cross-over's; stamps)
- 17-28 Moving to L - do 24 fast buzz steps (2 buzz per meas).
- 29-30 Still moving to L - stamp R,L,R - L,R,L (cts 1-&-2, 1-&-2).
- 31 Stamp R,L,R,L - slow circle down.
- 32 Stamp R,L in place.

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw, 4-97



Presented by Željko Jergan at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2013