

Povlekana

(Dobrudža, Bulgaria)

Povlekana (pohv-leh-KHAN-nah) is derived from the verb "povličkam" or "povleka" (to drag or sweep). The dance got its name from shuffling, brushing movements of the foot. Different variations of this râčenica are danced in the villages of the district of the town of Silestra, Dobrudža. Examples are Sej Sej Bob and Brâsni Cervul (brushing with the shoe). Povlekana was learned by Jaap Leegwater in February, 1983 from dancers of the village of Ajdemir. Jaap presented the dance at the 2000 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

Cassettes: Jaap Leegwater, Folk Dances from Bulgaria, UOP Folk Dance Camp 2000, Sides A/5 (Instrumental) and A/8 (Vocal); also, Folk Dances from Bulgaria, JL1986.01.

Rhythm: 7/8 meter = 2/8+2/8+3/8, counted here as 1, 2, 3, or Q Q S.

Formation: Mixed open circle facing center, hands joined in front-basket hold, leader at right end.

Styling: Dobrudžanski: low and small steps, danced with weight on full foot and knees slightly bent.

Measures 7/8 meter PATTERN

INTRODUCTION. The dance begins with any musical phrase.

I. BASIC ("OSNOVNO")

- 1 Facing ctr, step fwd on L, raising R slightly beside L, knee bent (cts 1-3).
- 2 Step back on R (cts 1-2); step on L beside R, sharply taking wt off R (ct 3).
- 3 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); step on L beside R, sharply taking wt off R (ct 3).
- 4 Step on R to R (cts 1-2); close L to R without wt (ct 3).

TRANSITION

- 1 Leap fwd onto L (ct 1); stamp R beside L with instep near L heel (ct 2); step back on R (ct 3).

II. ŽENSKO (WOMEN'S) VARIATION

- 1 Step back on L (ct 1); strike R ft on floor and brush it fwd (ct 2); stamp R ft fwd with wt (ct 3).
- 2 Small steps fwd, L, R, L (cts 1-3).
- 3 Close and stamp R beside L without wt (cts 1-2); step back on R (ct 3).

III. MAŠKO (MEN'S) VARIATION

- 1 Step back on L (ct 1); strike R ft on floor and brush it fwd (ct 2); with a large step fwd, stamp R, while beginning to raise L leg fwd in a CW arc (ct 3).
- 2 Lift on ball of R ft, raising L leg in front, knee bent (ct 1); strike L ft on floor and brush it fwd (ct 2); stamp fwd on L with wt (ct 3).
- 3 Close and stamp R beside L without wt (cts 1-2); step back on R (ct 3).

Sequence: Figure changes are signaled by the leader. According to the instrumental version (audio cassette Side A/5) of the Stockton Folk Dance 2000 Video, Jaap's suggested sequence is Fig. I (4X), Transition (1X), Fig. II (5X), Fig. I (4X), Transition (1X); Fig. III (5X), Fig. I (4X), etc. This fits the 4X4=16 measure phrasing of the instrumental recording. However, the vocal recording (Side A/8) has uneven phrasing. Because it is not uncommon for Balkan dance patterns to cross the musical phrasing, the leader's discretion may determine the sequence.