

POVŪRNATO HORO

Bulgaria

Notes by Dick Crum, revised 3/91.

Povŭrnato horo (po-VRR-nah-to ho-RO, 'backtrack horo') is only one of many names given to this extremely widespread Balkan dance. In Bulgaria it is also known as *Šareni čorapi*, *Napred-nazad*, etc. Macedonian variants are known as *Devetorka*, *Tri godini*, etc., and in Greece there is a Thracian version bearing the name *Chromatistá tsourápiá*.

Recordings: Many are available; an excellent one produced in the U.S. is Folk Dancer MH 45-3041, *Devetorka*.

Meter: 9/8. For ease in learning the dance described here, the 9/8 meter has been divided into 4 dancer's beats with a rhythm pattern of *quick-quick-quick-SLOW*:

<i>Dancer's beats (counts)</i>	1	2	3	4
<i>Rhythm</i>	q	q	q	S
<i>9/8 notation</i>	↓	↓	↓	↓.

Formation: Open circle, mixed men and women. Hands are joined and held at sides ("V" position).

MEAS	ACTION
Meas 1	Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD, take 4 steps as follows : step Rft (1); step Lft (2); step Rft (3); step Lft (4). Note: Natives sometimes vary the movements of meas 1 in an improvisatory way. For example, Lft may step <i>in back of</i> Rft (causing dancer to momentarily face center) on ct. 2. Also, it is very common for the dancer to add a tiny "hitch hop" on Rft just before stepping onto Lft on ct. 4 (similar to common Greek styling in the <i>syrto</i> s and other dances).
Meas 2	Still facing slightly R of ctr and still moving in LOD, take 3 steps and a close as follows : step Rft (1); step Lft (2); step Rft (3); turn to face ctr and close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft (4). (Note: As in the variation noted under meas 1, Lft may step <i>in back of</i> Rft on ct. 2 in this measure as well.)
Meas 3	Facing ctr. step Lft sideward (1); close Rft beside (or <i>in back of</i>) Lft taking weight on Rft (2); step Lft sideward (3); close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft (4).

continued

Variation ("bloop-bloops")

I observed the following variation in the dancing of several native Bulgarians from northern Thrace.

Meas 1 Same as meas 1 of basic form described above.

Meas 2 Counts 1, 2 and 3 same as in meas 2 of basic form described above. Then: take 2 very light steps, Lft-Rft, both on toes, on ct 4, dividing ct 4 into two beats ($\uparrow \downarrow$) ("bloop-bloop").

Meas 3 Facing slightly L of ctr and moving in RLOD, step Lft (1); with tiny hitch hop on Lft, step Rft, continuing in this direction (2); turning to face ctr, step diagonally back/L on Lft (3); do one "bloop-bloop" step in place, Rft-Lft, turning to face slightly R of ctr in preparation for return to meas 1.