

## Sakuting

The "Sakuting" is a folk dance of the Ilocanos and of the non-Christian people in the mountain provinces. The dance described here was found in Abra among the Christian Filipinos.

At Christmas time, it is customary in the Ilocos regions to dance this in front of homes and in the town "plaza." Groups of boys and young men go to the lowlands to perform from house to house. They receive from spectators, gifts or "aguinaldos" of money, drinks, fruit, or typical Filipino delicacies especially prepared for the Christmas season.

**NOTE:** This may be danced by both boys and girls, or, as in the original, by boys alone.

**COSTUME.** Girls wear "balintawak" style with "siesgo" skirt (no train). The boys wear red trousers and "barong tagalog" made of coarse, cheap material. Each dancer holds two sticks (one in each hand) with which to produce rhythmic sounds, timed with his steps. The stick is about one and one-half feet long and tapers at the end like a candle. It is held at the big end.

**MUSIC** is divided into ten parts: Entrance, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, and I.

**COUNT** *one two* or *one, and, two* to a measure of  $\frac{2}{4}$  time, and *one, two, three* to a measure of  $\frac{3}{4}$  time.

**FORMATION.** Partners stand opposite each other about four feet apart. They are placed according to height, with the smallest couple in front. Four couples make a set or group. From one to any number of sets may take part. (See diagram A. Note staggered formation of partners.)

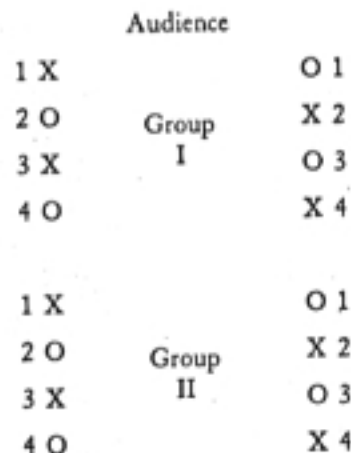


Diagram A

SAKUTING - Philippines

*Continued.*

## ENTRANCE

### Music Entrance.

Starting with the R foot, dancers march forward to proper places with Pair 1 leading. Hold the right hand in front with the right elbow bent upward and the left hand placed at the back of the waist. Take one step for each count.

Then countermarch outward and inward. As soon as dancers are in proper places mark time and face partners until the music ends.

(See diagram B.) ..... 16 M.

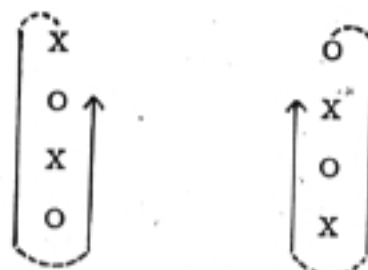


Diagram B

I

## WEAVING IN AND OUT

### Music A.

Pair 1 weaves in and out of pairs 2, 3, and 4 (see diagram C).

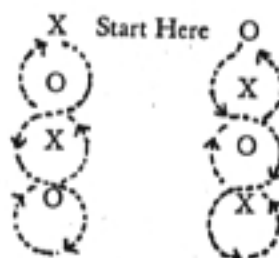


Diagram C

Pair 1 executes the following steps in weaving in and out of the other dancers:

Leap forward with the R foot (ct. 1), close L to the R foot (ct. and), step right forward (ct. 2). This is like a change step

*Continued.*

except for the leap on the first count. Do this step for thirty measures and continue in place as soon as original position is reached.

Pairs 2, 3, and 4 do the following step in place: Cut L foot backward with the R (ct. 1), step L in place (ct. and), step R close to the L in first position. Do this for thirty measures.

Sticks are hit together in this manner: Hit the sticks together in front with R over L (ct. 1), hit together again L over R (ct. and), and R over L (ct. 2). Repeat alternating L over R and R over L. 32 M.

## II

### BASIC STEP

#### Music B.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| (a) Dancers bend downward and strike sticks on the floor (ct. 1), raise trunk up and strike sticks once in front (waist level) with R over L (ct. 2), and L over R (ct. 3). . . . .  | 1 M.  |
| Repeat the same. . . . .   | 1 M.  |
| (b) Take one waltz step sideward right. Strike own sticks together three times at sideward right (R over L ct. 1, L over R ct. 2, R over L ct. 3). . . . .   | 1 M.  |
| Repeat same to the left. Start with the stick L over R. . . . .  | 1 M.  |
| (c) With a spring, step R foot obliquely forward right and place the L heel in front at the same time. Partners should be in one line by left shoulders. This is done on count one, at the same time striking partner's left stick with own left (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice (R over L, then L over R) (cts. 2, 3). . . . .  | 1 M.  |
| (d) With a spring, step L foot obliquely forward left and quickly close the R with the left foot. This brings the partners in a back-to-back position. At the same time, they hit each other's sticks (the right stick of the girl with the left of the boy, and the left of the girl with the right of the boy). The boy's knuckles are in front and the girl's behind (ct. 1), hit own sticks together twice (R over L, L over R) (cts. 2, 3). . . . . | 1 M.  |
| (e) With a spring, step R foot backward and place L heel in front. This brings the partners side by side again as in (c). Hit sticks as in (c). . . . .  | 1 M.  |
| (f) Take one waltz step backward left to proper places. Hit own sticks together three times (R over L, L over R, R over L). . .  | 1 M.  |
| (g) Repeat the same, this time starting with the L foot and standing by right shoulders in (c). . . . .  | 8 M.  |
| (h) Repeat all (a, b, c, d, e, f, g). . . . .  | 16 M. |

*Continued..*

- (e) Repeat (c) of this figure stepping R foot backward. .... 1 M.  
 (f) Repeat II (f). .... 1 M.  
 (g) Repeat the same (a, b, c, d, e, f), this time starting with the L foot, and standing by right shoulders. .... 8 M.  
 (h) Repeat all (a, b, c, d, e, f, g). .... 16 M.

# V

## RIGHT AND LEFT STICKS

Music E.

- (a) Repeat III (a). .... 2 M.  
 (b) Take a waltz-turn right moving obliquely forward (2 waltz steps), partners finish facing each other in a single line. Strike own sticks together three times to a measure while doing the turn. .... 2 M.  
 (c) Strike R sticks once with partner's R (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice as above (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.  
 Strike L stick once with partner's L (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.  
 (d) Take two waltz steps forward (R, L) to partner's place. Strike own sticks together three times to a measure. Finish facing partner. .... 2 M.  
 (e) Repeat the same (a, b, c, d) this time striking L stick with partner's L first and so on. Finish in proper places in (d). .... 8 M.  
 (f) Repeat all (a, b, c, d, e). .... 16 M.

# VI

## COMBAT

Music F.

Pairs 1 and 2 form a square and all face the center of the square. Pairs 3 and 4 do the same.

A. *Girls with Girls. Girls' Parts:*

- (a) Girls of each set take two change steps forward to center of the square. (See diagram D.)

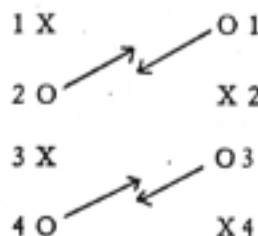


Diagram D

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### III UNDER LEG

#### Music C.

- (a) Starting with the R foot, take two waltz steps obliquely forward right so that partners stand in one line by left shoulders at the end of the second waltz step. Strike own sticks together three times to a measure. .... 2 M.
- (b) Raise the R leg in front and strike own sticks together once under the raised leg (ct. 1), lower the leg and strike own sticks together twice (R over L, L over R) (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- (c) Strike L stick once with the L of partner (ct. 1), own sticks together twice as above (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- (d) Raise the L leg in front and strike own sticks together once under the raised leg (ct. 1), lower the leg and strike own sticks together twice as in (b). .... 1 M.
- (e) Repeat (c). .... 1 M.
- (f) Repeat (a) moving backward to places. .... 1 M.
- (g) Repeat the same (a, b, c, d, e, f), this time partners stand by right shoulders. Strike sticks under L leg first in (b) and R stick with R stick of partner in (c). .... 8 M.
- (h) Repeat all (a, b, c, d, e, f, g). .... 16 M.

### IV SILENT

#### Music D.

- (a) Repeat II (a). Take two small steps forward (R, L) on counts 2, 3 so that partners are nearer each other at the end of the second measure. .... 2 M.
- (b) Hold own sticks together with the right and left parallel to each other. Execute one waltz step sideward right. Swing own sticks together from the right side and strike partner's sticks together (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice (R over L, L over R) (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- Take one waltz step sideward left. Swing own sticks from the left side and strike partner's sticks together (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice as above (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- (c) With a spring, step the R foot obliquely forward right, placing the L heel in front at the same time. Partners are in one line standing by left shoulders. Bend trunk slightly forward and open arms at the sides without striking sticks (silent) (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice, trunk erect (cts. 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- (d) Repeat II (d). .... 1 M.

Girls stand with the right shoulder turned to opposite girl. Strike own sticks together three times to a measure (cts. 1, and, 2).	2 M.
(b) Strike R stick once, with opposite girl's R (ct. 1), strike own stick together twice (cts. and, 2).	1 M.
Repeat same once more.	1 M.
(c) Turn the left shoulder toward the opposite girl. Repeat (b), striking with the L stick of the opposite girl (ct. 1), strike own sticks together twice (ct. and, 2).	1 M.
Repeat once more.	1 M.
NOTE: The girls execute change steps in place R and L alternately as they hit each other's sticks.	
(d) Take two change steps backward (R, L) to proper places. Strike sticks as in (a).	
<i>Boys' Part.</i>	
(a) They execute change steps in place R and L alternately, hitting their own sticks together three times to a measure (ct. 1, and 2), while the girls dance in the center.	8 M.
<i>B. Boys with Boys.</i>	
(a) <i>Boys' Part:</i>	
Boys of each square repeat the girls' movements in part A above.	8 M.
<i>Girls' Part:</i>	
Girls of each square repeat the boys' movements in part A above.	8 M.
<i>C. Neighbors Together.</i>	
(a) Neighbors face, girl 1 and boy 2, boy 1 and girl 2, girl 3 and boy 4, boy 3 and girl 4.	
They repeat the girls' movements in Part A.	8 M.
<i>D. Partners Together.</i>	
(a) Partners face each other and repeat the girls' movements in Part A.	8 M.

## VII

### FLOOR, WAIST, OVERHEAD, BACK

#### Music G.

All face partners. Strike own sticks together three times to a measure (cts. 1, and, 2) throughout this figure except in (a).

(a) Bend trunk down and strike sticks on the floor three times (cts. 1, and, 2).

- (When this is done outdoors, strike own sticks together three times near the ground to produce sounds.) ..... 1 M.
- (b) Raise trunk and strike own sticks together three times waist high in front. .... 1 M.
- (c) Raise sticks overhead and repeat the same. .... 1 M.
- (d) Place hands behind the waist and repeat the same. .... 1 M.
- (e) Repeat (a, b, c, d) three times more. .... 12 M.
- (f) Face right about, away from partner, and repeat all. .... 16 M.

## VIII

### CIRCLE FORMATION

#### Music H.

##### *Feet Movements:*

- (a) Face left. Starting with the R foot, take sixteen waltz steps clockwise (the two groups may be combined if desired). .... 16 M.
- (b) Turn right about and repeat (a) counterclockwise. .... 16 M.

##### *Rhythm of Sticks:*

- (a) Strike own sticks together three times at the right side (R over L, L over R, R over L). .... 1 M.
- (b) Repeat (a) to the left side. .... 1 M.
- (c) Strike own sticks together four times to the right side (cts. 1, and, 2, 3). .... 1 M.
- (d) Repeat (c) to the left side. .... 1 M.
- (e) Repeat all, seven times more. .... 28 M.

NOTE: The sticks are struck in exact rhythm with the feet movements.

## IX

### LYRE

#### Music I.

All girls stand to form a circle, holding their two sticks horizontally and parallel to each other. The right stick is at the level of the head, the left at the level of the chest. (See illustration.)

Boy 1 stands in front of girl 1, boy 2 in front of girl 3, boy 4 in front of girl 4, boy 3 in front of girl 2. All boys are inside the circle. (See diagram E.)

- (a) In the above position boys hit the girls' sticks as if playing a lyre with both hands (R hand up and L low). The girls hold their sticks firmly. The boys follow the notes of the melody (seven sounds). The right and the left sticks hit together at the same time. (See illustration.) ..... 1 M.

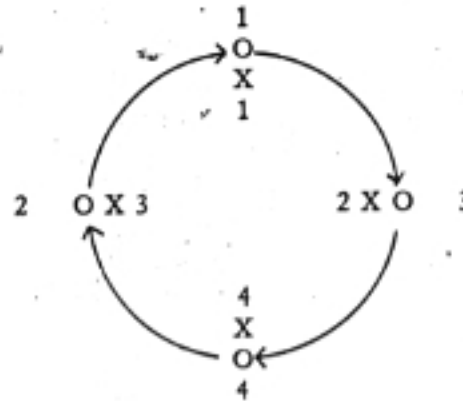


Diagram E

(b) Girls take three-step turn right in place. The sticks are not changed.

Boys take a three-step turn right moving to the next girl right (clockwise). . . . . 1 M.

(c) Repeat all (a, b) until the boys are back again to their original places. . . . . 6 M.

NOTE: If desired the boys may go around twice.

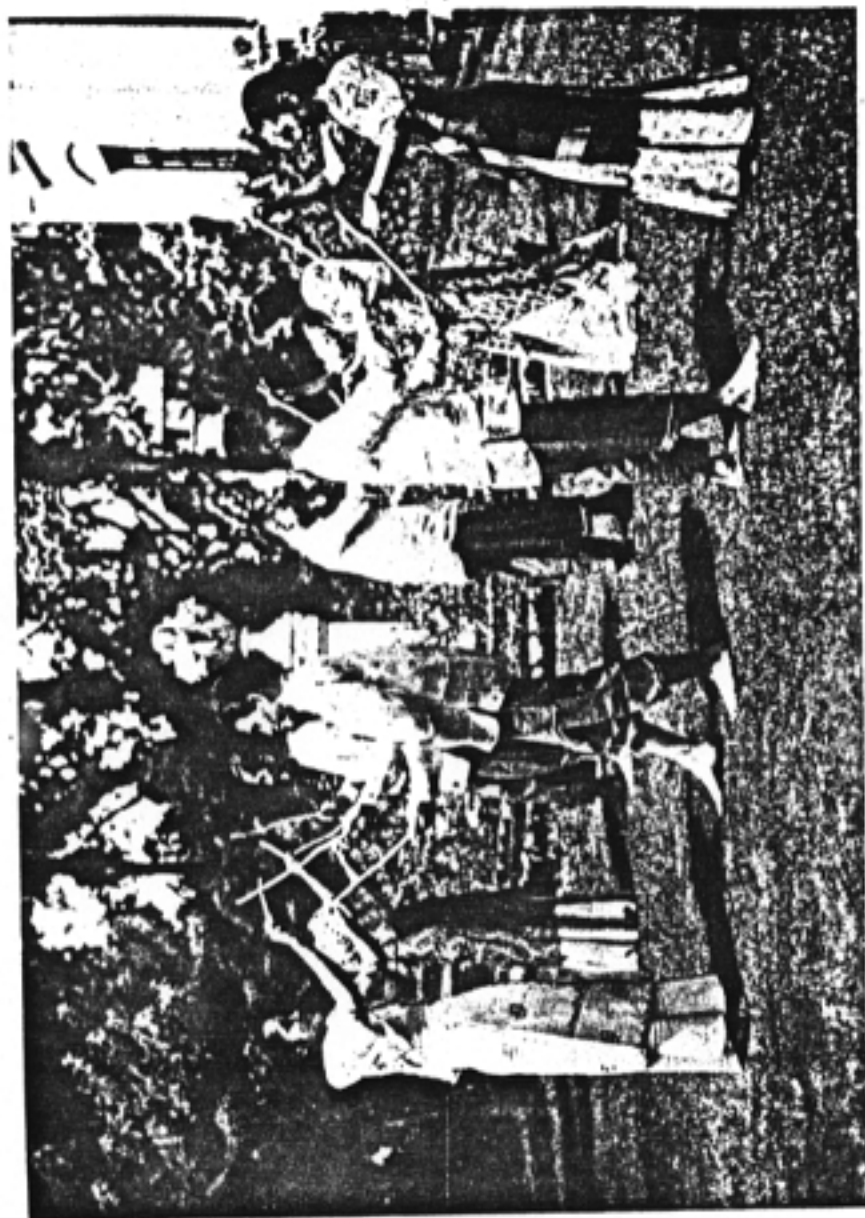
#### EXIT

Continuing the same music, all go to their original places and exit by executing waltz steps starting with the R foot. Hit own sticks three times to a measure at the R and L side alternately. Pair 1 casts off and leads the group.

NOTE: When hitting own sticks together it is always R over L, and L over R alternately.

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SAKUTING, FIGURE IX (a)