

ŠOKAČKO KOLO

Baranja, Croatia



Šokac (shoh-KAHTS) are an ethnographic group of Croats which moved from Bosnia during the massive Ottoman retreat.

This dance is done in Slavonija, Baranja, and Ba ka, although this variation is from Baranja, which is located between the Dunav river, and the lower part of the Drava river, in the Pannonian plains of Croatia. Although there are only a few dances from Baranja, the wealth of the dances lies in their variation and preservation until today. No festivity or celebration would be complete without dancing Šoka ko kolo. This dance begins with the drmeš, which is interrupted by singing and walking in rhythm in the circle. This pattern is repeated over and over until the musicians, usually a tambura orchestra or bagpipe ("gajde") player in the center of the circle, stops playing.

This dance was learned by Željko Jergan in 1989 at Đakova ki Vezovi (Village group of Draž).

TRANSLATION: Circle dance of the Šokac (shoh-KAHTS) people.

PRONUNCIATION: shoh-KAHCH-koh koh-loh

CD: "BAŠTINA HRVATSKOG SELA" by Otrov, Band #14

CASSETTE: "Croatian Folk Dances" by Jerry Gr evich, Vol. II, side B/1

FORMATION: Cpls (preferably) in a closed circle. M join hands behind W backs, W hands are on M shldr's. If there is more W than M use either a back-basket hold or hold belts (R over L).

STYLE: Extremely rigid with vertical movements and sometimes with bent knees. As the kolo progresses, M improvise using any one of many variations, while W must do only the basic step.

METER: 2/4

PATTERN

Meas.

INTRODUCTION: 8 chords

PART I: DRMEŠ (fast music)

Style: Steps are done on the balls of the ft, legs are somewhat stiff, while the steps are bouncy - bounces come from the ankles and dancing on the balls of the ft. The steps to the L are larger than those to the R (the circle progresses sdwd L)

- 1 Step R to R (ct 1); small hop on R as L moves twd R ankle (ct 2).
 - 2 Step L to L (ct 1); close R to L (ct 2).
 - 3 Step L to L (ct 1); small hop on L as R moves twd L ankle (ct 2).
 - 4 Step R to R (ct 1); small hop on R (ct 2); close L to R (ct &). (S,Q,Q)
M: On ct &, M ONLY step L behind R instead of closing.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all), except on last step, step L bkwd in prep for next step. (L-close-L-hop, R-hop-L, R-hop; repeat)

PART II: STAMPING IN & OUT (Face ctr)

- 1 Moving twd ctr - stamp-hop R across L - hips turns to face L of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 2 Stamp-hop L across R - hips turns to face R of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 3 Stamp R across L - hips turns to face L of ctr (ct 1); step L back to place - face ctr (ct 2).
- 4 Moving bkwd - stamp-hop R behind L (reel) - hips turns to face R of ctr (ct 1-2).



- 5 Stamp L behind R - turn to face L of ctr (ct 1); stamp R across L - turn to face R of ctr (ct 2).
- 6 Moving twd ctr - stamp-hop L across R - turn to face R of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 7 Stamp R across L - turn to face L of ctr (ct 1); stamp L behind R (reel) - face ctr (ct 2).
- 8 Moving bkwd - step R,L (cts 1-2).
Rhythm cue: S-S/ Q-Q /S/ Q-Q /S/ Q-Q/ Q-Q

PART III: CIRCLE L WITH STAMPS

- 1-2 Facing L of ctr and moving CW (RLOD) - step-hop on R, step-hop on L (cts 1-2, 1-2).
- 3 Stamp R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2). Stamps are on the full ft.
- 4 Stamp-hop on R fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2).
- 5 Stamp L-R fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2). Stamps are on full ft.
- 6 Stamp-hop on L in RLOD (cts 1-2).
- 7 Stamp R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2). Stamps are on full ft.
- 8 Stamp R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2).
Rhythm cue: S-S/ Q-Q/ S/ Q-Q/ S/ Q-Q/ Q-Q

PART IV: CIRCLE L, slow music (Vocal)

- 1-2 Intro to slow music, hold in place.
- 3-4 Facing ctr with ft slightly apart - rock sdwd, R then L (cts 1-2, 1-2).
- 5 Facing L of ctr - step R across L in twd ctr (ct 1-2). (S)
- 6 Step L bkwd out of circle (cts 1-2). (S)
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6. (R x L, L to L)
- 9-12 Moving CW (L) - do an 8 step grapevine, beg R across L (1 step per ct).

SEQUENCE:

Part I - Drmeš	Part III - Circle L with stamps
Part II - Stamping in & out	Part II - Stamping in & out
Repeat Part I-II	Part IV - Circle L (slow music- vocal)

**** Repeat dance from beg. Dance is done a total of 3 times.

Ej, milo mi je i po volji mi je, kad se dra-ga na me-ne-na-smi-je

Ej kad se dra-ga na me-ne-na-smij(e).

***Ej, milo mi je i po volji mi je,
Kad se draga na mene nasmije,
Ej, kad se draga ne mene nasmij(e)!***

*Hey, it feels good and makes me happy
When my sweetheart is smiling at me!*

***Aj, curo moja moje janje milo
Tebi dajem i dušu i tilo
Ej, tebi dajem i dušu i til(o)!***

*Hey, my dear girlfriend and sweet little lamb,
I'm giving you my soul and my body!*



Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw