

# Svatovski / Svadbjeni / Drmeš

Pokuplje, Croatia

The region of Pokuplje is a picturesque territory in central Croatia situated near the Kupa river, south of the capital city Zagreb. This particular dance is from the village Kupinec. This small region has a wealth of different costumes, music and customs. This dance was usually done for all festivities, especially weddings. Musical accompaniment was traditionally with two violins, bugarija and brass, and at times with a tamburitza (tambura) orchestra.

Željko Jergan first researched this region in 1976 and continues to this day. He first presented the dance in the U.S. in 2001.

TRANSLATION: Wedding Shaking Dance

PRONUNCIATION: svah-TOHV-skee DRR-mesh

CD: Skitnice, "A Road Less Travelled", #1 (Kupinečki Svadbjeni Drmeš);  
Skitnice, "Sviraj Svirče Drmeša", #23 (Svatovski Drmeš)

FORMATION: Cpls (alternating M and W) in a closed circle facing ctr. The most common formation is with M joining hands behind W, while W stand in front of M hands and place them on the M shldr; OR  
With M hands joined in a closed circle and W in front of M hands, W hands are joined behind M at shldr-blade ht; OR  
They may join in back basket (L over R) - most common; or some times in front basket (R over L).  
\*\* With any of the above hand holds in two or more mixed circles within a circle

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METER: 2/4

PATTERN

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Meas.

**INTRODUCTION:** 2 meas (4 beats)

**A** **FIG. I:**

- 1 Facing ctr and moving to L (CW) - step R in front of L, L remains bkwd and slightly off floor (ct 1); flex R knee (ct 2).
- 2 Step L diag L bkwd, R remains fwd and slightly off of floor (ct 1); flex L knee (ct 2).  
Note: Style - R always remains fwd and L bkwd.
- 3-14 Repeat meas 1-2. (7 times in all)
- 15-16 Stamp R,L,R in place (cts 1-2-1); hold with wt on L (ct 2).

**C** **CHORUS: BUZZ**

- 1 Facing L of ctr and moving to L (CW) - step R across L (full ft) (ct 1); step L fwd on ball of ft (ct 2). Style: Ftwk is very smooth
- 2-7 Repeat meas 1.

- 8 Step R across L (ct 1); hop on R as L circles fwd (ct 2).  
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk, moving to R (CCW). Hold and face ctr on last ct.  
NOTE: Ftwk is very smooth.

**C** **FIG. II: DRMEŠ SDWD L & R**

- 1 Facing ctr and moving very slightly sdwd L (CW) - step R beside L as L moves quickly fwd close to floor (ct 1); bounce on R moving very slightly sdwd L (ct 2); small step on L heel to L (toe is only very slightly off floor) (ct &). Style: Up feeling on ct 2.  
2-8 Repeat meas 1 (8 times in all), except on last ct - bounce on both ft in place.  
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and moving R (CCW).  
NOTE: Style: Ftwk is very small and bouncy.

**B** **REPEAT CHORUS (BUZZ - L & R)**

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE (BRIDGE)**

- 1-2 Stamp R,L,R,L in place.

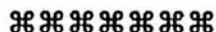
**C** **FIG. III: DRMEŠ IN PLACE**

- 1 Step R in place as L quickly move fwd close to floor (ct 1); close L beside R and bounce 2 times (cts 2-&).  
2-8 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk (8 times in all), except on ct "&" - bounce on L in place.

**FIG. IV: STEP, HOP, STEP TO L**

- 1 Facing L of ctr and moving to L (CW) - step R across L (ct 1); hop on R as L lifts beside R leg (approx ankle ht) (ct &); step L fwd on ball of ft (ct 2).  
2-8 Repeat meas 1. (8 times in all)

Repeat dance from beg. The dance is done a total of 3 times. On the last time through Fig. IV, do, 7 step-hop-steps. On meas 8 - face ctr and stamp R,L in place (cts 1-2).



Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw, 10-01

Presented by Željko Jergan