

# ZEYBEKIKO

(A Greek Solo or Couple  
Dance)

- SOURCE: This dance was presented by Oliver "Sonny" Newman at the 1964 Folk Dance Conference at Santa Barbara.
- RECORD: RCA 47g2146; Folkraft LP 3, side 2, band 6; "Greek Folk Dances."
- MUSIC: Any Zeybekiko will work. Preferably a slow to moderate tempo.
- METER: 9/8 (Count measures 1,2,3,4; 1,2,3,4,5.)

## STEP I BASIC (Remain facing center of circle or partner.)

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Beats</u>	<u>Counts</u>	<u>Steps</u>
1	1	(1) (&)	Step R to R (approx. 12" from L) Close L to R. (ball of L ft touching floor.)
	2	(2) (&)	Hold position. Step L tows ctr of circle in front of R.
	3	(3)	Step on R on its previous floor spot.
	4	(4)	Step L to L (approx. 12" from R).
	5-8	(1-4)	<u>Repeat the above exactly.</u>
	9	(5)	Step R to R.

## 2 REVERSE THE ABOVE.

### Variation I- Slow turn on second half.

On beats 8 & 9 a slow turn is very nice. Begin on the L (ct 8) and complete on the R (ct 9); now do entire step to L.

### Variation II - Fast turn on first half.

A quick turn on Ct. 4, step L doing a complete turn. Finish 1st measure either without turning or with Variation I.

## STEP II CIRCLING (Done with or without a partner).

Start moving forward from original spot. Make a circle facing each other and move bkws into original positions.

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Beats</u>	<u>Counts</u>	<u>Steps</u>
1	1	(1)	Step R fwd.
	2	(2) (&)	Step L frwd. Close R to L (as in a two-step).
	3	(3)	Step L frwd.
	4	(4)	Step R (cross R in frt of L to begin moving bkws to place. If you do this with a partner, step is like a facing turn. Half turn is CCW).
	5	(1)	Step L diag bkws to left.
	6	(2) (&)	Step R bk. Close L to R (as in a two-step).

*Continued...*

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Beats</u>	<u>Cts.</u>	<u>Steps</u>
	7	(3)	Step R bkws.
	8	(4)	Step L (more or less in place, as you should now be approx. in original position).
	9	(5)	Step R (still hovering over orig. spot)
2	<u>REVERSE ALL, STARTING NOW TO THE LEFT.</u>		

STEP III ROCKING

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Steps</u>	
1	1	Step R to R	
	2	Step L across R	
	&	Rock back to R ft in its previous position.	
	3	Step L to L	
	4	Step R to R.	
	5-8	Reverse above to the L	
	9	Step R to R.	
	2	1	Step L to L
		2	Step R across L
&		Rock back to L in its previous position.	
3		Step R to R, turning CW	
4		Step L to complete one CW turn.	
5-8		Reverse the above to the R, turning CCW	
9		Step L to L.	

NOTE: A pattern should not exist for this kind of dance, but to help folk dancers find their way into it I have arranged this sequence. (sign. Oliver "Sonny" Newman.)

- Pattern I Basic step to each side. (R & L)
- Pattern II Variations I or II to each side
- Pattern III Figure II, Circling, to each side.
- Pattern IV Figure IV, Rocking.

ZEBEKI KO: This is the dance of the Zeybeks, a people centered around Izmir (Smyrna), in Western Turkey. The Zeybeks, however, are not Turks, but are descended from the Greeks. The name "Zeybek" is of Arabic-Persian origin and means "two breeches", referring to the type of short, full breeches worn by these people.

The dance is a war dance, slow-moving and heavy-footed in nature, indicating close combat with short swords or daggers. The dancers turn and move about with outstretched arms, resembling the wings of birds in flight. Because of this similarity to flying birds this dance, resembling an eagle hovering over its prey, is frequently referred to as the "dance of the eagle".

The Zeybekiko may be done as a couple or solo dance. Couples face each other within an imaginary circle. The movements and turns are always done within the circle, though their form may vary depending upon the sex of the partner. The solo is always performed by men. The circle form is still maintained with the center taking the place of a partner.

(Robert Moriarty)