

Širto

Origin: Pirin Region, Bulgaria

Record: LP "Folk Dances from Bulgaria - 3" by Jaap Leegwater JL 1985.01 Side 1 Band 5

Formation: Open Single circle of couples the one at the right (in front of line of direction) is #1, the one at the left #2.

Source: This couple version is from Pirin. It was learned by Jaap Leegwater from dancers of the Pirin State Ensemble in 1975. They originally learned it from their first director and folklore researcher, Kostadin Rujev.

Note: This Bulgarian—Macedonian dance exhibits similarities with the Greek Syrto, both in the structure of the basic dance pattern and its name. The first melody is from the song to which the dance was originally performed: Sleznal Pavle ot Balkana (Pavle came down from the Balkan mountains)

STYLE : Macedonian or Pirinski

— very light and high on the ball of the foot

— there is a slight lift on the ball of the foot before the first step of each meas (basic step)

— vertical bouncy character

Meter: 7/8 counted S, Q, Q

INTRODUCTION : 10 measures

Part 1 "Sleznal Pavle"

Meas.

- 1 Facing and moving in LCD, lift on L ft followed by a step on R ft (Ct 1), step on L ft (Ct 2), step on R ft (ct 3)
- 2 Lift on R ft followed by a step on L ft (Ct 1), step on R ft (Ct 2), step on L ft (Ct 3)
- 3 Keep facing LCD, moving bkwd repeating ftwk of meas 1
- 4 Keep facing LCD, step on L ft sdwd R (ct 1), step on R ft in front of L ft (Ct 2), step back on L ft in place (Ct 3)
- 5-7 Repeat action of meas 1-3
- 8 Basic step as in meas 2, # 1 leads his partner with his R hand to his left side, partners keep holding hands in front
- 9-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 changing from holding the outsid hands in front to holding inside hands (W-position) on meas 12
- 13-16 Repeat action of meas 1—4 closing the single circle (partners have changed positions in the circle 1 becomes 2 and vice versa)

Part 2 "Ajde Ajde"

- 1 Facing ctr, moving slightly diag L fwd, step on R ft (Ct 1) step on L ft (Ct 2), step on R ft (Ct 3)
N.B. gradually extend both arms fwd on this meas
- 2 Facing ctr, moving slightly diag R fwd, step on L ft (Ct 1) step on R ft (Ct 2), step on L ft in front of R ft (Ct 3) N.B. keep holding arms horizontal in front
- 3 Facing ctr, moving bkwd, lift on L ft, followed by a step on R ft bkwd (Ct 1), momentary pull arms back by slightly bending the elbows and swing them down (arms straight), step on L ft, swinging arms bkwd low (Ct 2), step on R ft, swinging arms fwd low (Ct 3)
- 4 Step on L ft, swinging arms bkwd low (Ct 1), step on R ft, swinging arms low (Ct 2), step on L ft, swinging arms fwd low (Ct 3)
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4

Part 3

Meas.

- 1-2 Hold hands in W-position, facing and moving twd ctr, repeat ftwk of meas 1-2 of Part 1
 - 3 Lift on L ft followed by a small step on R ft sdwd R (Ct 1), step on L ft across in front of R ft (ct 2), step back on R ft in place (Ct 3)
 - 4 Make a full CCW turn in place with a basic step, starting with a lift on R ft
 - 5-8 Keep facing ctr, now moving straight bkwd, repeating ftwk of meas 1—4
 - 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8
- N.B. Repeat the dance three more times from the beginning, alternating #1 and #2 roles.
Last chord: both ft together, slightly bend both knees.

Description by Jaap Leegwater © 1985 Presented by Jaap Leegwater