

BELASIČKO ORO
(Macedonia)

This line dance comes from the town of Strumica (Stru-meet-sah) and is named for a nearby mountain, Belasica (Belah-seet-sah). The footwork is influenced by the rocky terrain. The dance is done by the shepherds in this area.

STYLING: Body is held erect, but relaxed. The bouncy character of the steps is reflected throughout the body. When directions say to step on the heel it does not mean that the toes are pointing in the air. Ball of the ft is on or close to the floor but the heel is bearing the wt.

MUSIC: Record: "Dances of Yugoslavia" WRS 768 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Broken circle, leader at R end. Hands joined and held down. When originally danced M and W did not join hands but held a handkerchief between them. Today usually only the leader holds a handkerchief in his R hand and uses it to signal changes from one pattern to the next.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
	<u>PART I</u> Hands joined and held down.
1	Moving in LOD, step on heel of R ft (ct 1). Close L to R, bending L knee (ct 2).
2	Step on heel of R ft in LOD (ct 1). Close L to R, bending L knee (ct &). Step on heel of R ft in LOD (ct 2). L leg lifts in preparation for next step (ct &). R knee bends a little.
3	Still moving in LOD, repeat action of meas 2 but use opp ftwork.
4	Turning to face ctr, step on R (ct 1). Lift L leg in front of R, knee bent (ct 2).
5-8	Repeat action of meas 1-4, but with opp ftwork and moving in RLOD.
	<u>PART II</u> Hands up shoulder high, elbows bent.
1	Facing ctr, step R heel to R side (ct 1). Close L behind R, bending L knee (ct 2).
2	Step R to R side (ct 1). Close L behind R (ct &). Step R to R side (ct 2). Lift L leg, knee bent, beside R leg (ct &). R knee bends during this small, low lift.
3	Step L next to R, lifting bent R leg next to L (ct 1). Raise and lower L heel as lower R leg is extended fwd a little (ct 2).
4	Repeat action of meas 3 but use opp ftwork.
5-8	Repeat action of meas 1-4 but with opp ftwork (move to L).
	<u>PART III</u> Hands are held down.
1	Turning to face in LOD, step R (ct 1). Bring L leg up to R so that L ankle is behind R calf, L knee turned out. At the same time R knee bends sharply (ct 2).
2	Turning quickly to face RLOD, step L, R, L (ct 1, &, 2). Size of these steps may vary but there is movement in RLOD.

continued...

BELASIČKO (continued)

- 3 Still moving in RLOD, step R (ct 1). Raise L leg (knee bent) in front of R (ct 2) as R heel is raised and lowered.
4 Repeat action of meas 2, Part III, at almost a run, but turn to face ctr on last step L in preparation for either a repeat of Part III or to move into Part IV.

PART IV Hands come up, shoulder high

- 1 Facing ctr, step R in front of L, lift L leg behind R (ct 1). Raise joined hands shoulder high as L steps behind R (ct 2).
2 Step R beside L (ct 1). Raise L leg (knee bent) in front of R (ct 2). No heel lift.
3 Bending R knee, turn L knee to L (ct 1). Straighten R leg and return to pos as in meas 2, ct 2.
4 Facing ctr, step L, R, L (cts 1, & 2).

Each of these patterns may be repeated as often as leader desires before changing to succeeding pattern.

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski