

# ČUČUK

(Povardarije, Macedonia)

Čučuk, most likely derived from the Turkish word *çoçek* (or the Macedonian word *čoček*) is a krsteno or crossing type of dance which comes from Skopje and the Vardar River region of Macedonia.

PRONUNCIATION: CHEW-chook

MUSIC: Available on workshop tape or many other recordings, such as Folkraft or Jugoton

FORMATION: Dance begins in a loose semi-circle with leader at end, no hand-hold. Eventually a shoulder-hold will be used.

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METER: 9/8 counted 1234 or 1234&                      PATTERN

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Meas      Count

## INTRODUCTION

- |     |     |  |
|-----|-----|--|
| 1   | 1   | Facing LOD (CCW), step L forward   |
|     | 2   | slide on L slightly backward while stepping R forward (weight is evenly distributed) |
|     | 3   | step L forward   |
|     | 4   | hop on L as R moves forward and through  |
|     | &   | step R forward   |
| 2-9 | all | Repeat measure 1, eight more times (9 in all).                                       |

## BASIC STEP

- |     |     |   |
|-----|-----|---|
| 1   | 1,2 | Step L-R forward  |
|     | 3   | step L forward, turning to face center and joining in "T" position (shoulder hold), or W in "W" position  |
|     | 4   | step R backward   |
| 2   | 1   | Lift on R while bringing L knee up and forward  |
|     | 2   | step L to L   |
|     | 3   | step R across L   |
|     | 4   | step L back in place  |
| 3-5 | 1-4 | Repeat measure 2, alternating footwork three more times (four in all). NOTE: begin from measure 1, but note count 1 of measure 1 will now be a lift in place of a step forward. |

## BREAK-AWAY

As music speeds up, dancers release shoulder-hold and dance solo in a semi-circular formation facing LOD (CCW).

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Repeat measure 1 of Intro, but begin by hopping on L replacing leap: hop L, R,L forward, R back) |
| 2 | 1 | Leap L forward   |
|   | 2 | chug on L while placing R forward (weight is evenly distributed)                                 |
|   | 3 | step L forward   |
|   | 4 | turning to face center-leap R to R side  |
|   | & | step L behind and to R of R  |

**BREAK-AWAY (continued)**

- 3        1     Step R to R side  
          2     lift on R while bringing L up in front of R knee  
          &     step L quickly bkwd to place  
          3     step R in place and bring L ft up in front sharply  
          4&    step L-R in place
- 4-5      all    Repeat measure 3, alternating footwork and direction, twice more (three in all), except on last count 4 &, turn to face LOD

**SQUATS**

- 1        all    Repeat measure 1 of "break away" (hop L, R L fwd, R back)
- 2        1     Lifting L knee up, leap L across R (cutting action), as you land on L lift R bkwd in prep for next movement  
          2     leap R across L  
          3     SQUAT deeply onto both ft (knees shoulder-width apart)  
          4     come up onto L and lift R up to L side
- 3        1     Repeat meas 2, but start by crossing R over L  
          2     L over R  
          3     SQUAT  
          4     come up on L
- 4        all    Repeat meas 3, exactly
- 5                Repeat meas 3, but come up on R on ct 4 (L free).

**SQUAT-TURNS**

- 1-2            Repeat meas 1-2 of "squats", but on ct 4, meas 2 come up on both ft. (hop L, RL fwd, R back; Lx, Rx, squat, rise)
- 3        1     Jumping up onto both ft while turning 1 time to L (CCW)  
          2     land in place  
          3     squat as in squat variation  
          4     come up onto both feet
- 4        1-4    Repeat meas 3, but turn R (CW) 1 time
- 5                Repeat meas 3, but come up with wt on R (L free) on ct 4.

NOTE: Generally the dance is danced by doing the intro as described (getting up the courage), then the "basic" for a long time. The "break-away" is then used to prepare for squats and as a rest step before "squat-turns". At the point where the "break-away" begins, through the "squats" and "squat-turns", 1 hard minute of dancing is as much as a truly good dancer would last.

Any more is a case of SADO-MACEDONIANISMOS....

*Presented by Steve Kotansky at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 1995*