

A Ranchero from Querétaro, Mexico.

Las Espuelas means 'the spurs', & this 'ranchero' dance is done in Querétaro & Puebla where there are iron & silver mines. And where the iron workers, among other things, fashion beautiful spurs. Though the dance is done in many variations, there is always a step in which the spurs on the dancer's heels are rung in rhythmic patterns.

MUSIC: Record: FOLKRAFT 1039-A 'Las Espuelas'. (These steps can be rearranged & added to, to fit any recording of Las Espuelas).

FORMATION: Ptrs standing side by side, W at ptr's R side, M holds a riding quirt in his R hand; W also if in chinaco costume, otherwise she holds skirt.

Music: 3/8; 2/4

PATTERN

Meas

INTRODUCTION: M standing in place turns ptr to her L in front of him; she makes one or two walking turns to finish at M's L facing front; M places his R hand on ptr's R sho.

3/8

1-4

FIGURE I:

Both start L ft & dance 1 complete Inditos step making 1/2 turn to own L on Meas 4, to face back.

Inditos Step:

Meas 1-Step L, hop L, step fwd R & lift L;

2-Step L, hop L, step bkwd R & lift L;

3-Step L, hop L, step fwd R & lift L;

4-Stamp L,R,L (these stamps may be used to move fwd, bkwd, etc). Next Inditos starts step R.

5-8

M does not take R hand from his ptr's sho. Repeat Inditos (Meas 1-4), but start R ft & make 1/2 turn to own R on Meas 8 to face front.

9-12

Repeat action Meas 1-4.

13-14

Start R ft & dance Meas 1-2 of Inditos & release hand hold.

15-16

Face ptr & with 4 stamps move fwd passing R shos & make a 1/4 turn on last stamp to face front; W at ptr's R side.

3/8

1-4

FIGURE II:

M start on R ft & W on L ft & dance 1 complete Inditos facing diag fwd away from each other so that ptrs are diag back to back; make 1/2 turn twd ptr (M R, W L) on stamps of Meas 4.

5-8

M start L ft & W start R ft & dance one complete Inditos twd ptr; make 1/2 turn (M L, W R) on stamps of Meas 4 to end diag back to back.

9-12

Repeat Meas 1-4, FIG. II.

13-16

M start L ft, W R ft & dance Meas 1-2 of Inditos, then with 4 stamps move twd ptr to finish facing ptr, M's L sho to audience.

continued...

- 2/4
1-8 FIGURE III: Both start R ft.
With R shos adj circle CW once around with 8 drop-steps.
- Drop-Step: Step down on R ft with emphasis, knee sl flexed & raise L ft in front, heel turned inwd (ct 1); take a small soft leap onto L ft beside R (ct 2); repeat.
- 9-16 Hold whip in both hands extended straight in front, or W holds skirt. Dance a R dos-a-dos around ptr with 8 zapateados #1.....
- Zapateado #1: Step R (1); scuff L heel fwd & step L (&); step R (2); scuff L heel fwd (&); repeat starting step L.
-(4 zapateados fwd passing R shos & moving to own R behind ptr; 4 zapateados bkwd passing L shos & moving to orig place).
- 17-24 Repeat Meas 9-16, FIG. III, but do a L dos-a-dos - incomplete - passing L shos when going fwd & when traveling bkwd bump into ptr back to back on 7th Meas & M turns 1/2 CW on 8th Meas. W does not turn; M is now behind ptr both facing stage L (R shos to audience).
- 3/8
1-4 FIGURE IV: Both start R ft.
Dance Meas 1-2 of Inditos, then 4 stamps moving fwd, the M pursuing his ptr in a large CCW circle.
- 5-8 Repeat Meas 1-4, FIG. IV, completing one-half only of the large CCW circle, both turn 1/2 CW on last stamp.
- 9-16 Repeat Meas 1-8, FIG. IV. W is now pursuing the M & they are retracing the path of Meas 1-8 to their orig places; on last stamp they again both turn 1/2 CW.
- 2/4
1-8 FIGURE V: M now pursues ptr in a complete CCW circle; both start L.
Hopping fwd on L ft, brush R ft fwd & outward on ct 1, & bkwd & across L ft on ct 2, & repeat 8 times in all.
- 9-16 W dances 8 running two-steps moving fwd. M follows her with 16 push-steps, his R sho leading & leaning body to R. (Step fwd on R ft with emphasis, close L ft to R momentarily, then push off L ft as R ft steps again in LOD; extend L leg & keep it close to floor on push, stepping R also close to floor).
- 17-20 Repeat Meas 1-4. FIG. V.
- 21-24 Repeat Meas 9-12, FIG. V; on last 2 Meas music retards & dancers do also; at end having completed the CCW circle the W turns to face her ptr.
- 3/8
1-2 FIGURE VI: Espuelas
Hold hands straight above head (with or without whip); stand with feet tog, push heels apart on upbeat.

continued...

- Snap heels tog & hold (1,2); heels apart (3); snap heels tog twice (1,2); heels apart (3).
- 3-8 Repeat Meas 1-2, FIG. VI, three times more turning around in place (M CW, W CCW)
- 9-10 Both start R ft, dance Meas 1-2 of Inditos.
- 11 Walk fwd 3 steps (R,L,R) passing ptr by R sho.
- 12 Pivot 1/2 CW on R ft bringing feet tog & facing ptr (1); snap heels tog twice (2,3).
- 13-16 Repeat Meas 9-12, FIG. VI, returning to own place.
- 2/4 FIGURE VII: Move fwd side by side (dir written for M, W is opp ftwk).
- 1 Hop R & tap L toe behind R ft (1); hop R & tap L heel to L side (2).
- 2 Hop R & tap L toe in front of R ft (1); hop R & tap L heel to L side (2).
- 3-6 Repeat Meas 1-2, FIG. VII, twice more.
- 7-8 Repeat Meas 1, FIG. VII; then both step on R ft as they make a 1/2 CW turn to face back. M places his R hand on ptr's R sho as in FIG. I.
- 9-14 Moving in a CCW curve traveling twd the back & then twd the front with 12 zapateados #2.
- Zapateados #2: Stamp L (1); tap R heel & step R (&); repeat for (2,&);
- Repeat 12 times in all, & finish facing fwd.
- 15-16 & CODA W takes M's R hand (which is on her R sho) with her own R hand & takes a three step turn diag fwd & away from ptr; hold for a moment. Then with impetus from her ptr's hand she makes 2 L twirls twd him (starting on L ft & releasing hands), & finishes at his side, his R arm about her waist.

Presented by Grace Nicholes
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