

OPAS  
(Bulgaria)

Source: Martin Koenig learned this dance in the villages of Kalipetrovo and Srebarna, Dobrudja, Bulgaria. It was arranged by Martin Koenig.

Pronunciation: OH-pahs

Record: Balkan Arts MK-6G, Side B, Band 4. 2/4 Meter.  
New pressing: Balkan Arts BAEU, Side A, Band 4.

Formation: Mixed short lines; belt hold, L arm over. Alternate, front basket hold with L arm over.

Styling: The feeling of this dance, typical of many Dobrudjan dances, is very much into the ground. "Chukche": a low hop that doesn't leave the ground.

Meas Cts

Pattern

INTRODUCTION - no action. Leader begins dance with any musical phrase.

FIGURE I. BAVNO

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Facing ctr, step sdwd R on R ft.                             |
|   | 2 | Close L ft to R ft.  |
| 2 | 1 | Step sdwd R on R ft.   |
|   | 2 | Chukche on R ft while bringing L ft across in front of R ft. |
| 3 | 1 | Step on L ft.  |
|   | 2 | Chukche on L ft, lifting R ft.                               |

Alternate Basic Figure, usually danced by Martin Koenig, is as in Sborinka:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Facing ctr, step sdwd R on R ft.            |
|   | 2 | Step L ft across in front (or beside) R ft. |
| 2 | 1 | Step sdwd on R ft.                          |
|   | 2 | Step L ft across in back of R ft.           |

FIGURE II. CHUKNI

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | In place, fall heavily onto R ft.          |
|   | 2 | " " " " " L "                              |
| 2 | 1 | " " " " " R "                              |
|   | & | " " " " " L "                              |
|   | 2 | " " " " " R "                              |
| 3 | 1 | " " " " " L ", turning body slightly to L. |
|   | 2 | Stamp R ft beside L ft, no wt.             |

FIGURE III. PRAVO - this figure moves straight twd ctr, and straight out.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step R ft fwd twd ctr.                  |
|   | 2 | Step fwd L ft.                          |
| 2 | 1 | Step fwd R ft.                          |
|   | 2 | Small chukche on R ft, L ft coming fwd. |

- 3     1     Step fwd L ft.
- 2     Chikche on L ft.
  
- 4     1     Step bkwd R ft.
- 2     Step bkwd L ft.
  
- 5     1     Step bkwd R ft.
- 2     Small chukche on R ft, L ft moving bkwd.
  
- 6     1     Step bkwd L ft, leaving R ft in place.
- 2     Lift R ft, drawing it back slightly.

FIGURE IV. CHUKNI NAPRED

1-3 etc     Repeat Fig II, "Chukni" as many times as the leader indicates, moving twd the ctr. Finish off with .

- 4     1     Stamp R ft beside L ft, no wt.
- 2     Stamp R ft beside L ft, no wt.

Note: meas 4 is a transition meas, and leads directly into Fig V.

FIGURE V. - moving gradually out of ctr in LOD, keep knees bent.

- 1     1     Moving into LOD, keeping low to the ground, knees bent, strong step R ft to R.
- 2     Hop on R ft, L leg lifting across in front, knee bent.
  
- 2     1     Moving in LOD, strong step L ft across in front of R ft, knee bent.
- 2     Hop on L ft, swinging R leg in fwd arc, knee bent.
  
- 3     1     Click both ft together, falling on both ft under body, knees bent.
- 2     Hold.

FIGURE VI.

1-2     Repeat Fig V, meas 1-2.

- 3     1     Hop on L ft, throwing R leg across in front of L, then swinging it behind L.
- &     Step on R ft behind L ft.
- 2     Step on L ft in place.

Suggested sequence of Figures:

- I - II - III
- I - II - IV - V
- I - II - IV - V - VI

Note: Each Fig in each group may be done any number of times at the leader's discretion. Also each group of Figures can be done any number of times at the leader discretion.

Special note: Fig VI, if done, normally follows Fig V. Fig IV, if done, follows Fig II. Fig V always follows Fig IV.

Familiarity with the music will determine which Figs the leader chooses to do, and how many times. Marty usually did Fig VI only twd the end of the music - and not very many times.

Presented by Marty Koenig at Mendocino Folklore Camp 1989

Presented by Martin Koenig.