

STARČESKA RAČENICA (Stahr-CHESS-kah Ruh-cheh-NEE-tsah) - Bulgaria

Learned by Yves Moreau, March 1970 from village dance group of Sapareva Banja, Pernik District, at folk festival in Pernik. This version of the Racenica is usually done by old people. The steps are quiet & heavier than other racenica dances of that area. The tempo is slower. The ten measure pattern is quite common in Western Bulgaria as well as in Eastern Macedonia & Serbia.

Meter: 7/16. 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3. Counted here at 1,2,3.

Formation: "Na lesa". Mixed lines of M & W, belt hold, L over R. Face ctr. Wt on L ft.

Style: Heavy peasant quality. Pretend you're over 75! Steps are small. Upper part of body is erect & proud.

Meas. Description Note: * Dance begins after 4 meas of introduction (fast music).

I. BASIC

- 1 Step sideways R on R (ct 1) Hold (ct 2) step on L, crossing in front of R (ct 3)
- 2 Step sideways R on R (ct 1) Hold (ct 2) step on L, crossing behind R (ct 3)
- 3 Small step on R to R (ct 1) step on L slightly in front of R (ct 2) Shift wt back on R (ct 3)
- 4 Reverse pattern of meas 3
- 5 Touch tip of R ft sideways R, weight remains on L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2) step on R ft, crossing in front of L (ct 3)
- 6 Step to L on L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2) step on R behind L (ct 3)
- 7-8 Reverse pattern of meas 5-6
- 9-10 Repeat pattern of meas 3-4

Note: *Whenever a foot is crossed in front or behind, dancer may make a sharp flexion of knee if desired.

II. FORWARD & BACK

- 1 Facing ctr & wt on L, touch tip of R ft slightly fwd & diagonally R (ct 1) Hold (ct 2) step on R ft slightly fwd & crossing in front of L (ct 3)
- 2 Reverse pattern of meas 1, figure II.
- 3-4 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2
- 5-8 Repeat pattern of meas 1-4 reversing direction (backwards) & ftwork

Note: *Leader may indicate change of figure by shouting "hopa", "assegah" "novo" etc. There is no set order or sequence.

Presented by Yves Moreau

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