

# SVATBARSKI KYUCHEK

(Roma from Kazanluk, Bulgaria)

This is a simple 2-measure dance done during wedding processions as a “horo” (line/circle dance) while members of the wedding party dance solo in the “moving” center. It is done to a 9/8 rhythm which is often referred to as *Kyuchek* or *Gaida*.  
Source: Roma wedding in Kazanluk, Bulgaria

Pronunciation: SVAHT-bahr-skee KYU-chehk  
Formation: Open circle, hands joined up in “W” position  
Music: 9/8 counted as 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

## Meas:

### **BASIC STEP**

- 1 Backing up diagonally to the R, step R back and to R while joined hands shift slightly to the R (ct 1); step L back and to R, while joined hands shift slightly to L (ct 2); step R back and to R, while joined hands shift slightly to R (ct 3); step L back and to R, while joined hands shift slightly to L (ct 4).
- 2 Turning to face slightly R of center, touch R (whole foot) slightly fwd (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step R slightly fwd diag R (ct 3); step L fwd in front of R (ct 4).

During meas 2 arms remain in “W” position without swaying, or push fwd to a “V” position on ct 3 and return to a “W” position on ct 4.

The solo steps in the center, or toward the front of the line, are more improvised in nature, but do keep the rhythm and involve the hips and hand/arm gesturing by both female and male dancers. The foot work/dance steps do have distinct patterns for example: Traveling using meas 2 above (touch-hold-step step); or meas 1 with a slightly hop/lift on ct 4 followed by an immediate step (step-step-step- hop/lift- step); there is also a “symmetrical “ step from side to side, or while moving forward as follows: (touch-step-step-step, and the reverse ftwk); or (step-step-step-touch, followed by the reverse ftwk). Variations will be demonstrated at teachings of this dance.

## Sequence for RAK TIKI TAK

### Meas:

- 1-16 Dance the Basic Step 8 times.
- 17 Side to Side: Facing center, step R to R (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2). step R to R (ct 3); Touch L slightly fwd (ct 4).
- 18 Repeat meas 17 with ftwk and direction.
- 19-20 Repeat meas 17-18 but move fwd to center (meas 17) and backing out (meas 18).
- 21-24 Repeat action of meas 17-20.

Styling: During this Side to Side variation, hands may be released and moved freely at shoulder level or higher by rotating wrists or snapping fingers, etc. Dancers may shimmy shoulders in a controlled and refined fashion. Also, the upper body can rotate slightly from side to side. These variations will be demonstrated at the workshop.

- 26 Repeat action of meas 25.
- 27 Still moving fwd to R, step/run R fwd (ct 1); step/run L fwd (ct 2), step/run R fwd (ct 3); hop slightly on R (ct 4); step L fwd (ct &).
- 28 Repeat meas 27.
- 29-32 Repeat meas 25-28.
- 33-34 Repeat meas 25-26.
- 35-36 Release hands and dance fwd, turn 3/4 CW out to R to finish facing center and rejoin hands in a "W" hold using steps of meas 27-28 (R, L, R, Hop-L).

Repeat dance from beginning, but each subsequent time, dance the Basic Step 12 times rather than the initial 8 times described above.

Presented by Stephen Kotansky  
Statewide 2012



Romani wedding in Sofia, March 1936.