

## TSAMIKO

This Greek dance originates in the highlands of Epirus and was the favorite dance of the 'Klepts', Albanian and Greek mountain bandits who fought against the Turkish occupation. These daring guerillas became folk heroes and when Greek independence was finally achieved their dance (Tsamiko) and picturesque costume (the Evazone's foustanella) gained wide popularity throughout Greece. The original Klept dance has 16 counts and is fairly complicated. This dance is still done in northern Greece. In southern Greece, however, the dance has been simplified into a 12 count dance. This is the version commonly seen at Greek functions in America, and is notated here.

Source: Cornell and Marianne Taylor, the international folkdance leaders in Boston, Mass.

Music: Greek Folk Dance Party (Tikva #T-131) Side B-band #5, or any good 3/4 'TSAMIKO' music.

Style: A warrior's dance...dignified, powerful, very controlled movements.

Formation: Open circle or spiral of men traditionally, but women also do it today. The line is always led by a man, who often will execute acrobatic solo steps to inspire the line, which continues the basic step. Line has hands joined at shoulder height, but arms are extended forward more than in most dances

<u>Meas.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>	<u>Movements</u>
1	1-3	Step R to right (ct 1). Step L across R (ct 3).
2,3	1-6	Repeat Meas 1 twice (cts 1-6).
4	1-3	Step R to right (ct 1). Rise on ball of R as left foot swings behind right knee (ct 3).
5	1-3	Moving to left, step L to left (ct 1). Step R across L (ct 3).
6	1-3	Step L to left (ct 1). Rise on ball of L as raise right leg in front with knee parallel to floor (ct 3).
<u>NOTE</u> ...the leg lifts described here are for men, a women would keep her foot close to the floor on the lifts.		

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