

BANJARA

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Gypsy Dance of Andhra Pradesh, India

Banjara (Van = forest + Chara = wanderers) are gypsy tribes that today provide the labor at harvest and seeding time in the rich farmlands of Andhra Pradesh. This dance depicts the daily ritual of going to the village well. The dance is very simple. The body is held erect from the waist up, steps are very small, but with a characteristic hip movement. The jingle of the profusion of jewelry provides additional accompaniment.

MUSIC: Dancecraft LP 123323

FORMATION: Individuals in a circle.

FIGURE 1 - Walk in a circle, single file CCW, hands on hips. body erect, very small steps.

Count

1-2

R, L

3

R with a marked bending of R knee causing R hip to move sideways

4

Step on L

Do Figure 1 16 times.

FIGURE 2 - Face the circle. Step taking small steps, make individual semicircles, first to L then R

1-8

Move to own L. Take 8 small steps in small semicircle to L.

9-15

And back to R. Wrists are moved as to create accompanying rhythm.

REPEAT 4 times.

FIGURE 3 - Walk with wrist movement as in Figure 2 except arms are held above head, elbows bent.

REPEAT 16 times

FIGURE 4 - R arm extended with R H fingers closed pointing to the center and L H on R elbow lead into the circle

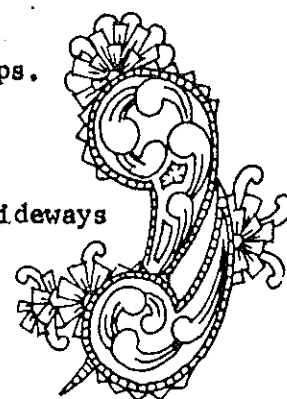
1-8

Lead with R stamp; L close repeat 4 times into circle.

9-16

Go back still facing centre leading with R F and same hand out. REPEAT the figure one more time.

FIGURE 5 - Little Circles - Same as Fig. 4, but with smaller circles forming 5 - 6 dancers closing into a circle, then opening up into the large circle.



Presented by Rina Singha at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1986