

Source: Learned by Yves Moreau, fall 1971, from village dance group in Rabrovo, Vidin District, N.W. Bulgaria. In Romanian, Batuta refers to a type of folk dance which involves stamps with the feet. This Batuta is a dance popular among the Vlachs of N.W. Bulgaria. The Vlachs originally came to Bulgaria from Romania. The Vlachs were for a long time nomadic people who settled primarily in Northern Greece, Macedonia, N.E. Serbia and along the Danube in Bulgaria. Their language and folklore are a mixture of Romanian and local elements.

Music: Worldtone WT-YM-001 side A (45 rpm)

Meter: 2/4

Formation: Short line - about 8 people - mixed or segregated. Belt hold, L over R. Face ctr. Wt on L ft. Often the two men at both ends of the line hold a wooden cane in their free hand.

Style: Knees bent slightly, a sharp, rather bouncy feeling, but not airy and light. A solid, heavy quality. Steps are small.

MEASURE

DESCRIPTION

BASIC STEP (Note: This step is often referred to as "VLAJNA")

- 1 Step to R on R (ct 1) slide L next to R, almost displacing R, bending knees slightly (ct 2)
- 2 Repeat pattern of meas 1, exactly
- 3 Step diag fwd to R on R (ct 1) Hold (ct 2)
- 4 Step fwd to ctr on L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2)
- 5 Step slightly fwd on R, crossing in front of L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2)
- 6 Moving away from ctr, step diag bkwd L on L (ct 1) Slide R ft back and next to L (ct 2)
- 7 Moving straight bkwd, small step on L (ct 1) still moving bkwd, small step on R (ct 2)
- 8 Still moving bkwd, small step on L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2)

STAMPING STEP ("Bătută")

- 1-2 Repeat pattern of meas 1-2 from above.
- 3 Step on R facing slightly R (ct 1) small hop on R, simultaneously bringing L knee up next to R (ct 2) facing ctr, small sharp stamp with L ft, no wt (ct 2&)
- 4 Facing ctr, small leap onto L (ct 1) sharp stamp, no wt with R ft, slightly fwd (ct 1&) small hop in place on L (ct 2) sharp stamp, no wt, with R ft slightly fwd (ct 2&)
- 5 Facing slightly R, small sharp stamp on R ft with weight (ct 1) small hop on R, simultaneously bringing L knee up next to R (ct 2)
- 6 Facing ctr, small step swd L with L (ct 1) Bring R to L, almost displacing L & simultaneously bending both knees very sharply (ct 2)
- 7 Small step to L with L (ct 1) close R to L (ct 2) Note: * Sometimes meas 7 can be done exactly like meas 6 i.e. sharper
- 8 Small step to L with L, simultaneously raising R ft slightly across L (ct 1) Hold (ct 2)

Note: *There is no set sequence for this dance. Leader calls figures at will. He may simply shout "hopa" or "hopsha" for a new figure or specifically "batuta" for the stamping figure.

Dance may start at beginning of any musical phrase. Beware also of music which is sometimes played "contra-tempo" or against the beat!

Presented by Yves Moreau