Baztango Esku-Dantza

(Basque)

Baztango Esku-Dantza ("Hand Dance from Baztan") is an amusing clapping game from the Basque people who live in the mountainous area on the border of France and Spain. Bill Gooch, a folkdancer leader from Knoxville, Tennessee, learned it from the Andra Mari dance ensemble of the city of Galdakao in the province of Bizkaia, and taught it to U. S. folkdancers. Upper elementary youngsters like it because there is no footwork and partners only have to briefly touch hands. It is also a challenging, competitive dance game.

Pronunciation: bahz-TAHN-goh ess-KOO dahn-TSAH

Music: FSP CD98-1   Band 3; Sanna Longden Video #2   4/4 meter
The instrument is a type of pipe, the *txistu*. The music was recorded with permission from an Andra Mari field tape.

Formation: Partners (traditionally M + W) facing in longways lines (or around the room).

Counts   Pattern

PATTERN I (without turn)

1	TOUCH: With hands together in "prayer" pos, partners touch pinkies.
2	RIGHT: Ptrs clap R hands.
3	LEFT: Ptrs clap L hands.
4	TOGETHER: Each person claps own hands together.
5	UNDER: Raise R (or L) knee and clap under (or on top of) own R (or L) thigh.
6	CLAP: Clap own hands once while lowering knee and stepping on ft.
7	UNDER: Raise L (or R) knee and clap under (or on top of) own L (or R) thigh.
8	CLAP: Clap own hands once while lowering knee and stepping on ft.
9	BACK: Clap own hands behind own back.
10	FRONT: Clap own hands in front of own chest.
11	TOUCH: Repeat ct 1 (hands touching ptr's in prayer pos).
12	HOLD: Pause in same pos, ready to begin again with TOUCH.
13-24	Repeat counts 1-12.

PATTERN II (with turn)

1-4	Repeat Pattern I, cts 1-4.
5	UNDER: Repeat Pattern I, ct 5, but begin turn to R (or L if raising L knee).
6-10	Repeat cts 6-10, continuing the turn with a step on each beat (except ct 7) and the same hand movements.
11-12	Finish facing ptr, and repeat Pattern I, cts 11-12.
13-24	Repeat counts 1-12.

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FROM ERRATA —

Baztango Esku-Dantza
Sequence: Wait out 1 Pattern I; Pattern I once; Pattern II twice;
Continue alternating Pattern I twice and Pattern II twice.