

CERKESKA
(North Bulgaria)

Čerkeska ("Circassian" - like the dance terms cherkessi or cherkessiya, probably referring to the crossing steps) was learned by Dennis Boxell in 1964 in the villages of Brest and Gigen, near Pleven, North Bulgaria, near the Romanian border. Like many dances from a border region, Čerkeska reflects the influence of the dance of its neighboring country.

RECORD: Folkraft LP-26

METER: 9/8, counted **♩♩♩♩**. "1-and, 2-and, 3-and, 4-and-ah"

FORMATION: Line dance holding belts, or "W" formation for the chorus step and belt-hold for the rest.

PATTERN

INTR. - 4 MEAS NO ACTION

Measure

Chorus Step - Traveling

- 1 Facing slightly and moving right, 2 running steps forward (R,L) (cts 1,2).
Hop on L ft, swinging R ft across in front (ct 3).
Leap slightly forward on ball of R ft (ct 4).
Leap slightly forward on L ft (ct and-ah).
- 2 Hop on L ft, swinging R ft across in front (ct 1).
Leap slightly forward on ball of R ft (ct 2).
Step slightly forward on L ft (ct and).
Leap slightly forward on ball of R ft (ct 3).
Step slightly forward on L ft (ct and).
Turning to face center, a slight leap sideward R on R ft (ct 4).
Close and step on L ft beside R, bending L knee slightly (ct and-ah).
- 3 4 Click Steps^{**} (R) sideward L (cts 1-and thru 4-and)
Pause (ct ah).

continued

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CERKESKA (cont.)
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PATTERN

- 4 Step on R ft directly in front of L (ct 1).
 Step back on L ft in place (ct and).
 Close and step on R ft beside L (ct 2).
 Step on L ft directly in front of R (ct and).
 Step back on R ft in place (ct 3).
 Tap L heel slightly forward (ct and).
 Close and step on L ft beside R (ct 4).
 Tap R heel slightly forward (cts and-ah).

Basic Step - Heel Taps in Place

- 1 Step on R ft in place (ct 1).
 Tap L heel slightly forward (ct and).
 Close and step on L ft beside R (ct 2).
 Tap R heel slightly forward (ct and).
 Close and step on R ft beside left (ct 3).
 Brush L heel forward (ct and).
 Cross and step on L ft in front of R (ct 4).
 Step sideward R on R ft (ct and).
 Tap L heel slightly forward (ct ah).
- 2 Repeat Measure 1 reversing direction and footwork.

Variation I - Step Back

- 1 Step slightly back on R ft (ct 1).
 Step on L ft in place (ct and).
 Step slightly forward on R ft (ct 2).
 Step on L ft in place (ct and).
 Step slightly back on R ft (ct 3).
 Step on L ft in place (ct and).
 Step on R ft directly in front of L (ct 4).
 Step on L ft in place (ct and).
 Tap R heel next to L toe (ct ah).

continued

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- 2 Measure 1 of Basic Step.
- 3 Repeat pattern of Measures 1 and 2 reversing direction and footwork.

Variation II - Cross and Pump

- 1 Step on R ft in place (ct 1).
 Cross and step on L ft directly in front of R (ct and).
 Step back on R ft in place (ct 2).
 Close and step on L ft beside R (ct and).
 Cross and step on R ft directly in front of L (ct 3).
 Step back on L ft in place (ct and).
 Again, step on R ft directly in front of ~~L~~(ct 4),
 "pumping" right foot. ~~(ct 4)~~ ¹
 Again, step back on L Ft in place (ct and).
 Tap R heel next to L toe (ct ah).
"PUMPING" R FT
- 2 Measure 1 of Basic Step.
- 3 Repeat pattern of Measures 1 and 2 reversing direction and footwork.

To fit this record, do the Chorus Step 3 times, the Basic Step 4 times, Variation I 2 times, Chorus Step, Variation II 2 times, and Chorus Step. *2 TIMES*

- ** Click Steps : With L knee bent slightly, click R ft against L, displacing L and straightening both knees (ct 1).
 Step sideward L on L ft, bending knee slightly (ct and).