

"COUPLE HASAPIKO"

(Greece)

Couple dances are very popular in the Greek islands. It is not uncommon for a line dance done on the mainland to be done in couple formation in the islands. This couple dance, currently popular in Greece, was learned there by Rickey Holden. Its movements stem from the traditional slow Hasapiko. Presented at the 1962 Kolo Festival by John Filcich.

Record: UA LP 4070-Side 2, Band 2 "Hasapiko". UA 275-"Hasapiko" 45 rpm
Formation: Cpls facing LOD, W on R of M. M R arm around W waist, holding her R hand. L hands joined, extended fwd diag L of LOD.

<u>Measures</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
4/4	
8	Introduction
	I. <u>Basic</u>
1	Lunge fwd on L, toe turned out, bring R ft behind L calf, toe pointed down, knee turned out (cts. 1, 2). Bring R in an arc fwd, outward, and around behind L (cts. 3, 4).
2	Step on R at L side of L heel (cts. 1, 2). In a small arc bring L around behind and step to R side of R heel (cts. 3). Lift R ft over L instep, knee turned out (ct. 4).
3	With R ft take one long gliding step diag fwd to the R (ct. 1). Step L on same diag, toe turned out (ct. 2). Step diag bwd to R on R, toe turned out (ct. 3). Lift L ft over R instep, knee turned out (ct. 4).
4 - 6	Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-3.
7 - 8	Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-2.
	II. <u>Cross 2-Steps</u>
1	Step R across in front of L, R heel on same plane as L toe (ct. 1); bring L up to R heel (ct. 2). L toe still on same plane as R heel. With R step to L side again (ct. 3); wt still on R start to bring L ft around in front of R in an arc to repeat step to the R (ct. 4).
2 - 4	Repeat action of Fig II, meas 1 to R side, L side, R side.
5	Step in front of L, R heel beside L side of L ft (cts. 1, 2). Reverse action for cts. 3, 4.
6	Repeat action of Fig II, meas 5, cts. 1, 2. Lunge fwd on L (cts. 3, 4).
7	Step back on R (cts. 1, 2). Step back on L (cts. 3, 4), raising R ft over L instep, knee turned out.
8	Repeat action of Fig I, meas 3. Repeat dance from beginning.

The "slow" or "vari" Hasapiko, from which the above steps are adapted is danced in Greece in "tavernas", especially in Pirea, the port of Athens. In its natural state it is danced by men only, and that to any number of tunes or recent compositions; any number of steps or combinations are employed at the choice of the leader. The above description tends to be a combination selected to fit the record. Some groups find it delightful done as a line dance, but it is most charming as a couple dance. Purists might question the dance, but like Misirlou, its popularity and acceptance might insure a place for the dance on the program. J.F.