

# DOPAŠI

Slovenian couple dance from the Adriatic Coast area

Notes by Dick Crum, 10/88.

*Dopaši* (DOH-pah-shee, from Italian *due passi*, 'two steps') is a lyrical schottisch-like dance still popular in several variants at church fairs and weddings as recently as a generation ago in Slovenian coastal towns such as Koper and Piran, and among Slovenes living around Trieste (Italy). It was done in the village of Babiči near Koper to the melody listed under "Recording" below.

**Recording:** Slovenian Traditional Dances cassette 104, *Dopaši*.

**Meter:** 4/4

**Initial formation and position:** Couples randomly scattered around dancing area. Closed ballroom position, partners directly face-to-face.

MEAS	COUNT	ACTION
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**Note:** Footwork is given for man; woman's footwork is opposite throughout.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step Lft sideward to L, on ball of foot.                |
|   | 2 | Close Rft to Lft.                                       |
|   | 3 | Step Lft sideward to L, on ball of foot.                |
|   | 4 | Low, "soft" hop or bounce on Lft in place.              |
| 2 |   | Repeat movements of meas 1 to R with opposite footwork. |

In meas 3-4, turn as a couple once or twice clockwise in 4 low step-hops, beginning M's Lft as follows:

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 3 | 1 | Step Lft diagonally L/forward, beginning clockwise rotation.     |
|   | 2 | Low, "soft" hop or bounce on Lft, continuing clockwise rotation. |
|   | 3 | Step Rft, continuing clockwise rotation.                         |
|   | 4 | Low, "soft" hop or bounce on Rft, continuing clockwise rotation. |
| 4 |   | Same as meas 3, completing clockwise rotation.                   |



**Variation on meas 3-4:**

Instead of 4 low step-hops, dancers may do 4 two-steps (step-close-steps), still rotating clockwise.