

J A B R O

JABRO (India)

A processional dance from Ladakh, India. Researched by Rina Singha in January 1981.

Jabro is performed in praise of the glacier which is a central factor in the life of the people of Ladakh. It supplies water for the lakes which supply fish and other food, and also provides the moisture for edible plants. As a result of the very high altitudes the dances of Ladakh have gentle movements and simple repetitive patterns.

MUSIC for Jabro is available on a Tape Series:-

Rina Singha Ethnology Series # 1. Dances from Ladakh and Rajasthan.

FORMATION: Two lines. Separate lines for men and women.

Women's line in front of line men's. All face line of direction.

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION: Start dance with singing.



Counts: FIGURE I: Moving fwd in LOD, with knees slightly bent.

1-4 Walk fwd, LOD. R, L, R, L, hands on hips.

5-6 Stamp R ft twice.

REPEAT cts 1-6 three more times.

FIGURE II: Hand movements denote the cutting of leafy edible plants.

L hand like a fist as if holding stem.

R hand flat palm up as if slicing. It passes under L fist.

One cutting movement is done every 4 cts.

In LOD, hand movement is done slightly to the R of body.

1-2 R, L

3 R heel

4 Hold

5-8 Ftwk as in cts 1-4. Hands as in cts 1-4, but done to the Left of body.

REPEAT cts 1-8 three more times.

NOW REPEAT Fig I four times.

FIGURE III: All join hands front basket hold in their own line.

There will be two lines one behind the other.

1-4 Moving R LOD, R, L, R, L.

5-6 Bend both knees

7-8 Kick R foot in front

9-12 Back up to place R, L, R, L,

13-16 Face front stamp R foot twice.

REPEAT cts 1-16 three more times.

FIGURE IV: Lines moving fwd

1-4 Ftwk, R, L, R, L; Hands clap three times and hold

5-8 Stamp R foot twice; Hands on hips.

9-14 Six step turn R LOD, turning to the R starting on R foot.

R, L, R, L, R, L; hands on hips

15-16 Stamp R foot once

REPEAT Figure IV once more.



(continued)

JABRO (Continued)

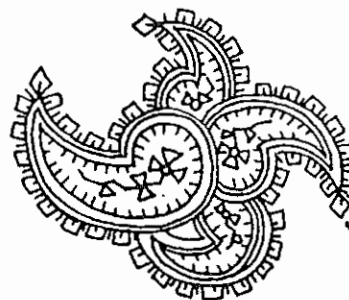


FIGURE V: Lines continue moving in LOD.

- 1-4 Ftwk R, L, R, L: Hands on hips
- 5-8 Stamp R foot twice; Hands on hips
- 9-16 Stamp R foot Four times; Arms stretched out a little higher than waist level palms up.

FIGURE VI: Each line joins hands front basket-hold moving RLOD

- 1-4 R, L, R, L
 - 5-6 Brush R foot fwd
 - 7-8 Brush R foot back
 - 9-12 Back up to place R, L, R, L.
 - 13-16 Stamp R foot twice.
- REPEAT Fig VI three more times.

FIGURE VII: In twos, inside elbows linked, free hand on hips.

- 1-12 Turn 12 counts to the R (Right hand person backing up)
ftwk Right, Left repeat five more times
 - 13-16 Stamp R foot twice
 - 17-32 REPEAT turning to the Left
- REPEAT Figure VII one more time.

FIGURE VIII:

REPEAT Fig. I to end of music.

NOTE

This dance may be done in a circle in pairs, in which case Fig VII (couples turning figure) is done more than once in the dance. Order of figures are interchangeable.

Order of figures as taught at Camp this year for a circular Jabro:
Fig. 1-4 as in separate line formations, followed by Fig. 7, then Fig. 5 followed by 4, 7.

Presented by Rina Singha at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1986

