

EL JARABE TAPATIO (Mexico)

OPENING FORMATION: Partners facing each other, no set order, hands joined.

INTRODUCTION: Couples start together on the first roll of music. The lady is twirled from under the joined hands into a position several feet away from the man. The entire dance is done with lady holding her skirts, which are swished about a great deal. The man should wear a sombrero or straw hat and keep his hands behind his back, as if holding the ends of a serape.

PART 1: (A) Jarabe step #1: Strike right heel down against the floor. Step on left toe, then on right toe. Strike left heel down against the floor. Step on right toe, then on left toe. These steps should be taken briskly, shortly, close together and close to the floor.

Using Jarabe step #1, move towards partner, starting on the right foot.

Do 14 of these steps, timing them so that you finish with right shoulder to right shoulder in the center of the floor, and stamp once.

Do 14 more of the Jarabe step #1, still moving forward across the floor into your partner's place. When you get there, turn to face partner so that you do the final stamp facing partner.

(B) Jarabe step #2: Strike right heel down against the floor. Step on left foot with a little chug forward. Step on right toe. Step on left foot with a little chug forward. This is a syncopated rhythm with the chug step following right after the heel or toe movement. Note that only the right foot does the heel and toe, while the left does the chugging. Using Jarabe step #2, move forward to partner's right shoulder with 14 of these steps and stamp once. Continue to original position with 14 more of the same Jarabe step #2, turning to face partner for the final stamp.

(C) Using the Jarabe step #1 (as in A), move completely across to partner's place with 14 steps, making them longer and without stopping in the center as you did in (A) and (B).

PART 2: Run lightly forward to partner—right, left, right. Cross left foot over right, as you make a complete turn to the right. This is done in the center quite close to partner, bending left shoulder down. Repeat the same step, moving into partner's place. Do not, however, make a full turn; instead, just turn so that you are facing partner.

In this new position do a position turn to the right with 3 push steps and finish with a stamp on the left foot, facing partner. Repeat this same step, turning so left with 3 push steps and stamp on right. Repeat the push step, turn to right and left again.

PART 3: "Atole step": For count 1, stamp on right foot as you cross it over in front of left foot. For counts 2 and 3, step in place on left foot and bring right foot down beside it. Then repeat in other direction—i.e., cross left over right and take two steps in place. Shoulder leans in direction of foot crossing over. Move slightly forward on each step. The step is done with long sweeping movements. Do 8 of the steps over to partner's place, passing right shoulders. Do 8 more of the same to get back to original place.

PART 4: Jarabe step #3: Strike right heel on floor. Step on left foot. Step on right toe. Step on left foot. Chug-hop forward on left foot. Repeat the step always with the right foot doing the heel and toe.

Move forward towards partner, using 7 of Jarabe step #3, finishing in center of set with right shoulder to right shoulder. Stamp once. Then repeat 7 of the same steps, finishing in partner's place.

PART 5: Run forward—right, left, right—towards partner to meet in center. Make a $\frac{3}{4}$ turn to right, crossing left foot over right to do so. With left shoulder towards original place, do 4 push steps into place. Run forward towards partner again—right, left, right—and turn in place again. This time, however, instead of returning to home position, men take off hats, throw them on ground and start to dance around hat.

PART 6: Both dance around the hat, moving clockwise with 16 push steps. Start again with 16 more push steps, changing as the lady steps inside the brim of the hat and does an ankle-rocking step on the brim of the hat as the man alters his push steps into an exaggerated lunging step. Make sure the figure is finished with the girl on the side where she started the dance.

PART 7: Lady sinks down to pick up hat as man throws right foot over her head. Lady should be sure to tuck her head in low. Both stand side by side as lady places man's hat on her head.

Hand in hand both skip forward 8 steps and back 8 steps, starting on right foot. Then with the right foot do a heel-and-toe and heel-and-toe while hopping in place on left foot. Skip forward 2 steps, followed by a step-together-step. Do a left foot heel-and-toe and heel-and-toe while hopping on right foot in place. Skip backwards 4 steps. Skip forward 4 steps. Skip backwards 4 steps. Skip in place 4 steps.

Twirl the lady under and finish with one of two endings:

1. Man kneels on left knee as lady places left toe on man's right knee for a pose.

2. Both hide behind hat and pretend to, or actually do, kiss!

