

LA JOTA

(Ilocano).

Philippines

This festival dance is known throughout the Philippines in different versions, the one described below being from Paoay, Ilocos Norte. The old people of Paoay, especially the women, are very fond of dancing. On special occasions like the "Guling-Guling" (Eve of Ash Wednesday), "Tambora" (Eve of Christmas), and the feast days of Sta. Maria and Sta. Rosa, for which the old people dress in their best, there is much dancing. Couples dance as long as they can and perform as many dances as they know, one after the other without intermission. If there are not enough men dancers, two women dance together.

La Jota is also danced during wedding and baptismal parties and other social gatherings.

COSTUME. Dancers are dressed in typical Ilocano peasant costume (See illustration, page VII).

MUSIC is composed of four parts: A, B, C, and D.

COUNT one, two, three to a measure in $3/4$ time and one, and, two or one, and two, and to a measure in $2/4$ time.

FORMATION. Partners stand opposite each other about eight feet apart. When facing the audience, the girl stands at boy's right. One to any number of pairs may take part in this dance.

INTRODUCTION

Music Introduction.

Partners face each other.

Three-step turn right in place and bow to each other. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist while turning and opens hands in second position when bowing. 2 M

— I —

Music A.

(a) Face right (girl faces the audience, the boy away from the audience). Starting with the R foot, take two close steps forward. The heel of the closing foot is raised. Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 2 M

(b) Step R foot backward, hands as in (a). 1 M

(c) Point L foot in front. Twist trunk slightly to the left to look at partner. "Kumintang" the L hand, R hand of girl holding skirt and that of boy is placed on waist. 1 M

(d) Face left about (boy facing and girl away from audience). Repeat (a-c), starting with the L foot. Reverse the position of the hands in (c). 4 M

(e) Repeat (a-c). 4 M

(f) Face left about as in (d). Starting with the L foot, take two close steps forward. Place weight on the L foot on the second close step (2 M). Waltz turn right to proper places (2 M). Girl holds skirt, boy places hands on waist. 4 M

(g) Repeat all (a-f). 16 M

— II —

Music B.

Partners face each other. The movements of the girl and boy are done simultaneously.

Girl

(a) Execute a "mudansa" step starting with the R foot. Make the steps small. 16 M

(b) Repeat (a), starting with the L foot. 16 M

Boy

In the meantime, clap hands on the 1st and 3rd beats of every measure. 32 M

— III —

Music C.

Repeat figure I. 32 M

Continued...

— IV —

Music B.

Repeat figure II, this time the boy doing the dance steps and the girl clapping hands. 32 M

— V —

Music C.

Repeat figure I. 32 M

— VI —

Music B.

Partners face each other. Throughout this figure the L hand of the girl is on waist and R hand holds skirt. Boy places hands on waist. Make the steps small.

- (a) Step R obliquely forward right (ct. 1), brush L heel obliquely forward right (ct. 2) step on the L heel obliquely forward right (ct. 3). Step R close to L heel (ct. 1), brush L heel forward right (ct. 2), step on the L heel obliquely forward right (ct. 3). Step R close to L heel (ct. 1), brush L heel forward (cts. 2, 3). Finish in one line, by each other's L shoulder, about four feet apart (boy facing girl's place and vice-versa). 3 M
- (b) Face half-left and repeat (a) starting with the L foot, moving obliquely left forward. Finish in one line, standing by each other's R shoulder about two feet apart (boy facing audience and girl away). 3 M
- (c) Face half-right and repeat (a). Finish in one line standing by each other's L shoulder as in (a). 3 M
- (d) Repeat (a), starting with the L foot and moving toward partner's place. ... 3 M
- (e) Starting R foot, two waltz steps forward to partner's place (2 M). Waltz turn right about in place to finish facing partner (2 M). 4 M
- (f) Waltz turn right in place (2 M), pause (1 M). 3 M
- (g) Repeat (a), (b), (c), and (e), finishing in proper places, facing opposite directions. Waltz turn left about in (e). 13 M

— VII —

Music D.

Partners face each other.

- (a) Starting with the R foot, take eight change steps forward to partner's place. Pass by each other's L shoulder. "Kumintang" R and L hand alternately, free hand on waist. 8 M
- (b) Turn right about and repeat (a), going to proper places. Pass by each other's R shoulder. 8 M

— VIII —

Music D.

Partners face each other.

- (a) Starting with the R foot, take four change steps forward to meet at center. Back of hands are placed at the back just below the waist. 4 M
- (b) With the R foot leading, take eight small chasing steps moving around counterclockwise at the center. Partners are facing each other as they move around. The girl's hands are placed as in (a). The boy claps hands at every count of each measure. 4 M
- (c) Repeat (b), moving clockwise, L foot leading. The girl's hands are placed as in (a). The boy "kumintang" L and R hand alternately every measure, free hand on waist. 4 M
- (d) Repeat (a), moving backward to proper places. 4 M

SALUDO

Music Finale.

Three-step turn right in place and bow to each other or to audience. Girl holds skirt and boy's hands are in second position when bowing. 2 M