

## KABANICA I SEKSERA

Croatia

Notes by Dick Crum for Aman Institute '94

As a folk song and dance tune, the unusual 3-measure melody of *Kabanica i seksera* (kah-bah'-nee-tsah ee sek'-seh-rah, 'an overcoat and sixpence') is well known under a variety of different names in the region of Slavonia (eastern Croatia). In some villages the dance takes the form of a couple dance, while in others it is done as a circle dance or kolo. Related folk dances already known to many U.S. and Canadian folk dancers are Drhtavac and Sitne bole.

The version described here is a circle dance done in villages around the town of Slavonski Brod. A partner form of the dance, from another region, was presented by this writer at Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1958 (see p. 33 of that year's syllabus). At that time the only record available was an imported 78 rpm. The recording listed below can be used for either version of the dance.

**Recordings** Jugoton LSY 66066 I-4, *Kabanica i seksera*  
**Formation** Dancers, mixed M and W, in closed circle, hands joined in front basket position, L arm under, R arm over.  
**Meter** 2/4

Meas	Count	Action
1	1	Facing center, step Lft sideward L, flexing L knee slightly.
	&	Bring Rft over beside Lft without taking weight on Rft.
	2&	Bounce twice on both heels together in place, knees unflexed.
2	1	Still facing center, bounce on both heels together in place, flexing knees slightly.
	2&	Bounce twice on both heels together in place, knees unflexed.
3	1	Still facing center, bounce in place on R heel, moving Lft sideward L close to ground.
	2	Step on Lft sideward L, taking weight on Lft.

The above movements constitute the entire dance, and are repeated as long as the music plays. Note that after the very first sideward step on Lft 'to get started', all subsequent repeats of the basic pattern begin with the Lft already having stepped sideward L, hence throughout the rest of the dance, meas 1 is done as follows:

1      1      With Lft already bearing weight, bounce in place on L heel, flexing L knee slightly.

(From this point the dance is identical to that described above.)

## Song lyrics

As a folk song, *Kabanica i seksera* has no fixed, standard lyrics; as a matter of fact, it is subject to much improvisation, and, like many dance songs of the Pannonian repertoire, its verses are often full of double meanings and undisguised sexual references. The verses given below are those sung on the Jugoton recording listed under Recordings above.

### KABANICA I SEKSERA

Kabanica i seksera, haj, haj,	A cloak and sixpence, haj, haj,
doć će dika dok večera, haj, haj.	my sweetheart will come at supper time, haj, haj.
Kabanica u dvi pole, hajd, hajd,	A cloak made of two panels of cloth, hajd, hajd,
idi diko do nevolje, hajd, hajd.	sweetheart, you can go to hell, hajd, hajd.
Kabanica od seksera, haj, haj,	A cloak worth sixpence, haj, haj,
moja dika isprošena, haj, haj.	my sweetheart's been spoken for, haj, haj.
Kabanica i na njoj su rojte,	A cloak with braiding on it,
oj, čobani, kiše se ne bojte.	hey, shepherds, don't be afraid of the rain.