

KARAPYET (RUSSIAN TWO STEP)  
A dance of old Russia  
Record: FOLK DANCER MH 1058

# Karapyet

This is a ballroom type folk dance. The word "Karapyet" is a sort of nickname for the people who come from the Caucases, similar to the way Americans call people who come from New England "Yankees". The dance has Caucasian influences, hence its title. Note the similarity here of the same polka steps as in the dance "Kohanochka" described on the reverse side.

**FORMATION:** Couples facing counterclockwise, in social dance position.

**PART I (A)** In half open position, retaining social dance position, rise up on both toes as outside toe is placed down beside inside foot. Sink down on full foot of inside foot. Now cross outside foot over inside foot and place that toe on the other side of your inside foot and rise up on both toes. ( Toe and toe is the cue).

Now take 4 walking steps forward, turning at the end, inwards to face other direction. Do not drop hand positions, merely turn bodies and adjust hands.

Repeat the same foot work as in part A above, and follow with 4 walking steps to face original direction, counterclockwise.

**PART 2:** This part is identical to Part 1 of "Kohanochka" in that dancers hold inside hands and move forward with 4 Russian style polka steps. Two to move forward and two to turn away from partner, like this.  
**THE STEP:** Leap on outside foot and follow through with 2 running steps. The count is: Long, short, short; long short, short. Or you may cue it: Leap, run, run; Leap, run run.

During the polka step, inside hands which are held bet at the elbow move forward on the first polka step and backwards on the second polka step. Outside hands at the same time are held at shoulder level and swung backwards and out on first polka step and across chest on second polka step. Make sure that the turn is done with polka steps and not with walking steps. One turn only. A slight leap on the first count of the 4th polka step helps in the turn. Hands are dropped in the turn, of course.

**PART 3:** Join inside hands, free hands out at shoulder level and walk forward 3 steps, starting on outside foot and swing free foot ( inside one) forward on 4th count. Without dropping hands or changing them, do the same 3 walking steps and swing on the 4th count in the other direction. Then face forward again and take 2 Russian Polka steps forward again. Take ballroom position and finish the dance with two polka steps moving around the circle.

Repeat dance from beginning.

The whole style of the dance, as is true of "Kohanochka and Lezginka" is forward, moving swiftly and close to the floor. In Part 2 be careful not to do "pas de basques" or heel clicks, and it is not a face-to-face or back-to-back movement, but all moving forward and using only the arms, out and in.

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Presented by Mary Ann Herman at Maine Folk Dance Camp 1987