

1960 SANTA BARBARA FOLK DANCE CONFERENCE

Presented by Dave Rosenberg

KRITIKOS *syrtos*

Greek

RECORD: There are many records for the Kritikos, just as there are many tunes for syrtos and tsamikos. A good Kritikos record to use is Liberty 33A; but why not try to locate your own records and select your favorite (and at the same time get a taste of some of the other aspects of Greek-American folk culture).

FORMATION: Dancers in a line, leader at right end. Hold hands, with arms raised and elbows bent, so that joined hands are about shoulder height. Body should face forward throughout the dance; do not turn your upper body or hips to execute the steps but let your lower legs do all the work. Steps should be small and lively; dance mostly on the ball of your foot, heels slightly off floor.

Rhythm throughout dance is slow, quick, quick.

Pattern

Begin with weight on right foot. Brush left foot forward (a small precise motion, halfway between a tap and a brush) (slow). Then bring left foot back behind right foot and step on it (quick). Step slightly to right on right foot (quick).

*Step on left foot crossing in front of right foot, moving to right (slow). Step on right foot, crossing in front of left, moving to left (quick) and then step on left foot to the left (quick).

Step on right foot, crossing in front of left and rise up slightly on it (this becomes a hop with lively Kritikos music) (slow). Left foot should remain behind right on this slow step. The next step is on the left foot, moving back to the right (quick). Step on right foot to the right (quick).

Step on left foot in place (slow). Step on right foot in place and hold (quick, quick).

Repeat from beginning.

Variation: You may see many variations on this basic Kritikos step, as done at Greek-American affairs. Here is one such variation. Like most, it is done on the first slow, quick, quick, sequence.

Begin with the brush with the left foot. Then transfer weight to left foot, at same time kicking right foot forward; transfer to right foot, kicking left foot forward. (This is a small fast action, not big kicks.) Then do rest of step just as above, starting from asterisk.