

Presented by Jaap Leegwater

KUCAJ KUCAJ MOME
Bulgaria

This dance belongs to the so called "Kuca"-type of dances, which probably came into existence as an imitation of somebody in the village with unequal legs. Therefore named: "Kucata" ("the cripple's dance").

Different variations of "Kucata" and Kucaj, kucaj mome" are to be found in the region north of the town Veliko Târnovo, Severniaško.

This version was learned by Jaap Leegwater during a field research trip in Bulgaria, 1979.

TRANSLATION: You, limping girl.

MUSIC: Cassette: Bulgarian Folk Dances, Jaap Leegwater, JL1984.02.

FORMATION: Short lines joined in belt hold (L over R).

RHYTHM: 7/8 meter, counted here as: $\frac{1-2}{1} \frac{1-2}{2} \frac{1-2-3}{3}$ (Q,Q,S)

METER: 7/8

PATTERN

Meas

INTRODUCTION: 16 meas

PART I:

- 1 Facing ctr, hop on L as R leg extends fwd with straight knee, R ft is flexed (ct &); step R fwd with plie (cts 1-2); hop on R in place twice (cts 3,&).
- 2 Step L bkwd with plie (cts 1-2); hop on L (ct 3).
- 3 Slight hop on L in place, extending R leg sdwd R close to floor (ct 1); step R to R (ct 2); step L next to R (ct 3).
- 4 Repeat meas 3.
- 5 Do one "Racenica"-step (RLR) fwd twds ctr as follows: Step R,L fwd (cts 1-2); step R fwd, raise L ft to L, knees tog (ct 3).
- 6 Close L to R with sharp click, wt on both ft (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on R, pumping L heel fwd (ct 3).
- 7-8 Do 2 Racenica steps LRL, RLR bkwd.
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, with opp ftwk and direction.

PART II:

Facing ctr, moving sdwd L, positions of ft are: L ft points diag L, R ft points twds ctr, knees are slightly turned out;

- 1 Hop on L, extending R leg to ctr and leaning slightly bkwd (ct 1); step R in front of L straightening body (ct 2); step L sdwd L (ct 3).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1, 2 more times (3 in all).

Cont

- 4 Lift R leg fwd horizontal to floor (cts 1-2); slap and step R in front of L, lean fwd (ct 3).
- 5 Still leaning fwd, "čukče" on R, lifting L ft behind R calf (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R across L (ct 3).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5, 2 more times (3 in all).
- 8 "Čukče on R (ct 1); step L to L, straighten and turn body twds ctr (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction.

DANCE SEQUENCE

Introduction: 16 meas

Part I	2x
II	1x
I	2x
II	1x
I	1x

NOTE: Finish the dance by changing the last Racenica step in Part I into a leap on L, raising R knee in front (ct 1-2); close and stamp on R next to L (ct 3).

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