

Paeelanjo

**PAILANJO**  
Shirag Province, Armenia

Rhythm: 2/4

Source: Tom Bozgian learned this dance in the fall of 1965 from Jora Makarian, director/choreographer of the California Armenian Folkloric Ensemble. Mr. Makarian was director of folk dance in the Ashtarakee district, northern Soviet Armenia. He had formal dance training in Tiflis (Soviet Georgia) and later directed a professional dance ensemble in Stuttgart (West Germany). He immigrated to the U.S. in 1950. This dance is still being performed throughout the many northern regions of Soviet Armenia. The root comes from the word "Paeelag" which means lightning. Some of the movements are linked to the tightrope dancer.

Formation: Line dance with little finger hold and leader at right

Meas Count Movement

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | 1 | Facing diagonally R, step R ahead as arms swing forward                                      |
|    | 2 | Step L across R as arms swing back   |
| 2  | 1 | Facing center, step R to R as arms swing forward and up to shoulder height                   |
|    | 2 | Hop R in place as L lifts behind   |
| 3  | 1 | Touch L heel on floor ahead of R, wiggling whole leg   |
|    | 2 | Lift L heel sharply behind with slight hop on R  |
| 4  | 1 | Repeat meas 3, count 1   |
|    | 2 | Kick L sharply in front above floor  |
| 5  | 1 | Step L in place, kick R, as arms swing down and back   |
|    | 2 | Step R in place, kick L, as arms swing up to original position                               |
| 6  | 1 | Step L in place  |
|    | 2 | Hop L in place as R lifts behind   |
| 7  | 1 | Repeat measure 3, count 1, with opposite footwork  |
|    | 2 | Repeat measure 4, count 2, with opposite footwork  |
| 8  | 1 | Step R in place, kick L, as arms swing down and back   |
|    | 2 | Step L in place, lift R behind, as arms swing up to 45° with arms straight                   |
| 9  | 1 | Bending torso forward, touch R heel on floor, R leg straight, as body turns gradually RLOD   |
|    | 2 | Continue turn RLOD; touch R heel, R leg straight, on floor ahead                             |
| 10 | 1 | Continue diagonally RLOD, touching heel again on floor as arms swing up to original position |
|    | 2 | Touch R heel, then raise as arms swing down and back   |