

PENTOZALI
Circle dance from Crete

Pentozali, traditionally danced by men, takes its name from the five distinct parts of the dance. (See Supplementary Notes below)

FORMATION-

Open circle, leader at right.

STARTING POSITION-

Arms extended sideward, hands on neighbor's shoulders. Right foot free.

CUES

Step-Swing
Step-Swing
Leap
Pas de Basque
hop Slide and

Step-Swing, etc.

Measures

1. STEP-SWING starting with Right foot. Step on Right foot (counts 1 and), Hop on Right foot and Swing Left across in front of Right (2 and).
 2. STEP-SWING starting with Left foot. Step on Left foot (1 and), Hop on Left foot and Swing Right across in front of Left (2 and).
 - 3 - 4 LEAP, PAS de BASQUE, hop SLIDE and.
 3. Leap onto Right foot (1 and), follow this action immediately with a
 4. Pas de Basque left. Leap onto Left foot (2), Step on Right beside or in front of Left foot (and), Step in place on Left foot (1), Hop on Left foot (and) and
 5. Slide sideward right with Right foot (2), Close Left to Right and Step on Left foot (and).
- Right foot is now free to repeat entire pattern.

Note: "The leader sometimes, releases himself from the circle - to turn-jump-slap his hands, etc. He can add a few intricate steps -and turns - provided he keeps in rhythm with music and in step more or less with the others. He always will end up with that "first count (step kick). He could add a large variety of intricate steps, never doing the same steps twice. But will always come out - on time - in rhythm for that "first count".

Its more fun being the leader of the line - or circle - because - one can demonstrate his skill in doing the dance. I've seen some very fancy steps.

After the leader had enough he usually releases himself and goes to the end of the line, thereby giving the next person the opportunity to lead for a while. This goes on until everybody has his chance to lead the line.

I noticed in your record you spelled Pentazali with an "a" instead of an "o" - like its pronounced Pentozali not Pentazali."

Excerpts from letter from Steve Paitakis, an enthusiastic participant in his native Cretan dances, from whom we learned Pentozali.