

PLETYONKA

Record recommended: "Barynya," Kismet 142B
(Has increasing tempo.)

We have received four descriptions of this dance, varying in detail, all from California . . . but we have never seen a Russian ethnic group perform any of the four versions. Since California is the happy home of numerous "synthetic" folk dances, concocted by recreational folk dance group leaders, we can't say if the version given here is an "authentic" folk dance or a "manufactured" one. However it is fun for groups that don't stress these matters.

Starting position: partners facing in a single circle, the man facing counterclockwise, the woman counterclockwise. Men's arms are folded high on chest, women's hands on hips, knuckles in.

Hopping on right foot, touch left toe to the side, heel turned up and outside of leg twisted towards the front count 1

Hopping on the right foot, point left toe diagonally forward count 2

Hopping on left foot, touch right toe to the side, heel turned up and outside of the leg turned towards the front count 3

Hopping on the left foot, point right toe diagonally forward count 4

Repeat all counts 1 to 4

Hook right elbows with partner, and with left arm curved over head, turn clockwise with 8 walking steps, turning one and one half times around to leave man with back to center of the circle, woman facing out counts 1 to 8

Retaining elbow hook with partner, hook left elbow with the original "corner" (adjacent person other than partner) to form an interlocked circle. Turning body towards the right, and looking at corner person over left shoulder, all take 12 walking steps, clockwise counts 1 to 12

Retaining left elbow hook with corner, release partner and turn with corner with 4 walking steps in a counterclockwise direction, right arm curved overhead, finishing with the man facing counterclockwise and the woman clockwise, as in the beginning, except that the former corners are now partners counts 1 to 4

Repeat dance with new partners.