

PRAVO HORO

TRANSLATION : "Straight line dance", originally meaning a simple dance primarily moving in one direction, usually to the right.

BACKGROUND : The *Pravo Horo* is undoubtedly the most popular line or group dance throughout Bulgaria. There are many different versions of it and in each ethnographical region they do it to different songs and melodies in the for that area characteristic styling. The names of the regional *Pravo*'s often indicate where they are from i.e. *Pravo Trakijsko Horo* (from Trakija or Thrace), *Pravo Šopsko Horo* (from Šopluk or West-Bulgaria) and *Pravo Severnjaško Horo*, (from "Severna Bulgaria or Northern Bulgaria).

At many weddings and parties however a simple basic *Pravo* is done, one that nowadays is almost adopted as the "national" or "generic" *Pravo Horo* of Bulgaria, and is not bound to one particular ethnographical region.

This *Pravo* is the most basic one and has like many of the regional versions four steps done to a three measure phrase w.i. two small steps starting with the R ft, followed by two slow ones:



Other countries have their own version of it, they might be known under different names, but they all belong to the same group of the three-measure basic "Hora"-family.

The Romanians call the dance *Hora* or *Sîrba*, the Greeks have their *Hasaposerviko* and the Israeli *Hora* or line-*Hava Naguila* shows a similar dance pattern brought to Israel by immigrants from the Balkans.

MUSIC : Cassette "Pan Bulgarian Folk Dances"- JL1987.02 by Jaap Leegwater. Side A # 1.

or

any moderate - fast up-beat 2/4 type of *Pravo* recordings like Boris Karlov's *Dudino Horo*, *Pravo Horo* and *Radino Horo* who have become "classicals" for this dance. They all are to be found on his LP Balkanton BHA 402.

METER : 2/4



FORMATION : Half or open circle.
Hands held in W-position.

STYLE : Light, small steps.
 The arms rock gently up and down on the rhythm of the steps.
 When the music goes faster the performance of the steps becomes more vived and jumpy.

MEAS PATTERN Part 1 Osnovno (Basic)

- 1 facing ctr, moving sdwd R,
 step on R ft (ct 1), step on L ft in front of R ft (ct 2)
- 2 step on R ft (ct 1),
 small lift on R ft moving L ft bkwd (ct 2)
- 3 step on L ft behind R ft (ct 1),
 small lift on L ft lifting R ft off the floor (ct 2)

Part 2 Skoci (Hops)

- 1 repeat action of meas 1 of Part 1
- 2 step on R ft (ct 1),
 hop on R ft lifting R knee in front (ct 2)
- 3 step on L ft in place (ct 1),
 hop on L ft lifting R knee in front (ct 2)

Note: This variation can also be performed with swinging the leg in front on cts 2 of meas 2 and 3.

Part 3 Prisitvanè (Three-steps)

- 1 repeat action of meas 1 of Part 1
- 2 facing ctr, dancing in place,
 step on R ft (ct 1),
 step on L ft (ct &),
 step on R ft (ct 2)
- 3 repeat action of meas 2 with opp ftw

Note: This small three-step is done on the whole ft and the knees mostly straight.

The different variation can be alternated and indicated by the leader of the line (*Horovodec*).