

PRAVO ŠOPSKO HORO
(Bulgaria - Šoplūk)

Pravo Horo ("straight dance") is done in different styles all over Bulgaria and in parts of Yugoslavia and Greece; Pravo Šopsko is the Šop style, typical of Western Bulgaria.

It is not really fair to the dancers to say that this dance has "figures". As the dance goes on, each dancer is free to embellish the basic pattern, and may or may not be dancing just like the people on either side. Generally, as the music gets more energetic, native dancers tend to express their excitement by doing faster and more elaborate steps.

RECORD: Folkways LP FD6501, Pravo Horo or any suitable recording.

METER: 2/4

FORMATION: Line dance, holding hands or belts.

PATTERN

Measure

- 1 Facing slightly and moving R, step-hop on R ft. (cts. 1,2).
- 2 Continuing R, step-hop on L ft. (cts. 1,2).
- 3 Turning to face center, step sdwd. R on R ft. (ct. 1); cross and step on L ft. behind R ft. (ct. 2).
- 4 Facing center, step-hop on R ft. (cts. 1,2).
- 5 Step-hop on L ft. in place (cts. 1,2).
- 6 Step-hop on R ft. in place (cts. 1,2).
- 7 Turning slightly and moving L, two quick steps fwd (L,R) (cts. 1,2).
- 8 Turning to face center, step-hop on L ft in place (cts. 1,2).

continued

PRAVO ŠOPSKO HORO (con't)
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This pattern repeats, over and over, until the dancers or the musicians can't dance any more (or until the record ends).

In a slow or low-energy mood, the hops described above may be lifts, in which the supporting foot does not leave the ground. As the dancers warm up, the lifts become hops; then any or all of the hops may be replaced by three light steps in place. The quick steps in Measure 3 or 7 may be replaced by hop-step-steps.

In this particular Pravo variation, learned by Dennis Boxell at a festival on the Yugoslavia-Bulgaria border in 1963, as the dance picks up, the dancers often carry the line into an elliptical path clockwise on the floor, moving to the right and into the center on Measures 1 and 2, curving around the right end of the ellipse on Measures 3 and 4, and so on.