

SANTA RITA

(Northern Mexico)

Santa Rita (SAHN-tah REE-tah) is a couple dance from Northern Mexico. The dance was introduced by Nelda Drury at the 1974 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: Express 411B "Santa Rita". 2/4 meter.
C.B.S. EPC 393 (Columbia - 45 rpm). 2/4 meter.

FORMATION: Cpls in open pos facing LOD with free hands joined and pointing twd LOD.
Steps are described for M. W use opp ftwork unless otherwise noted.

STEPS: Polka*, Stamp*, Push*
Bounce: With wt on both ft, raise heels (upbeat). Lower heels (downbeat).
Taconazo: Step on R (ct 1), strike L heel on floor (pick it up immediately) (ct &), lift R heel leaving ball of ft on floor and snap R heel on floor (ct 2), strike L heel on floor picking it up immediately (ct &).
Repeat of step begins with step on L.
Quebrado (kay-BRAH-doh) or "Broken Ankle" (without wt) -- as done in Fig VI:
Step on one ft turning ankle of free ft out, no wt. (Be sure to transfer wt ² supporting ft before turning ankle of free ft.) Ft alternate on these steps, each are danced in even rhythm.
Quebrado or "Broken Ankle" (with wt): See end of Fig II.

STYLING: Santa Rita should be danced gaily and with exuberance.

* Described in Volume A-2 of Folk Dances From Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., San Francisco, California.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION No musical introduction. Dance begins after the words "Santa Rita" and 2 pick-up notes.

I. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

- 1-4 Begin L, dance 4 polka steps fwd in LOD bending the body fwd on meas 1 and 3 and holding the body upright on meas 2 and 4.
- 5 Facing ptr, step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 1), step on R in front and slightly to L of L (ct 2).
- 6 Facing LOD, bend body from waist and point joined hands twd floor as you stamp L (ct 1), stamp (ct &), stamp L (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 7 Moving in RLOD but facing ptr step sdwd on R (ct 1), close L to R (ct &), step sdwd on R (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 8 Bending body from waist and pointing joined hands twd stamping ft, stamp L (ct 1), stamp L (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig I).

II. SDWD TWO-STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

- 1 Facing ptr step sdwd L on L (ct 1), close R to L (ct &), step sdwd L on L (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 2 Step on R in front and slightly to L of L ("Broken Ankle" #) (ct 1), step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II) in opp direction with opp ftwk.
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) three more times.

#"Broken Ankle" (with wt) is optional. Place the outer side of R ft on floor far enough to the side to prevent foot and leg from making a sharp bend. The ankle must bear wt for a moment. Be careful! It can be dangerous.

III. POLKA

- 1-16 In closed ballroom pos dance 16 turning polka steps traveling in LOD and turning CW. This polka is like a bouncy two-step with no hop. Arms go down and up with the movement of the body.

IV. BALANCE AND WRAP

- 1-2 Facing ptr with both hands joined straight across, M facing LOD, both beg R: balance fwd (twd ptr) with one polka step (R shldr adjacent); balance bkwd (away from ptr) with one polka step.
- 3-4 Dance 2 polka steps into "wrap" pos: With MR-WL joined hands at waist level and ML-WR joined hands held high, W turn L (CCW) under raised joined hands to finish at MR side. M drop ML-WR joined hands over the W to waist level.
- 5-6 In "wrap" pos balance fwd and back with 2 polka steps.
- 7-8 M dance 2 polka steps in place as you help W turn back to place. Dancing 2 polka steps, W turn R (CW) under ML-WR raised joined hands.
- 9-10 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig IV) but this time L shldr adjacent.
- 11-12 Repeat action of meas 3-4 (Fig IV) but W turn R under MR-WL raised joined hands to finish at ML side.
- 13-14 Repeat action of meas 5-6 (Fig IV).
- 15-16 Still in "wrap" pos, again balance fwd and back with 2 polka steps. (DO NOT unwrap!)

V. TACONAZO AND PUSH

- 1-4 Facing LOD and still in "wrap" pos dance 4 Taconazo steps in place: R,L,R,L.
- 5-8 Beg R dance 7 push steps to the R finishing with a bounce on both ft.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V) beg L and moving L.

INTERLUDE

- 1-2 Dropping MR-WL hands M step R,L,R, hold in place while W dance a 3 step turn to the L (L,R,L, hold).
- 3-4 Both turn with 4 steps to finish in closed ballroom pos M facing LOD: M make one full turn L (CCW) stepping L,R,L,R; W turn 1 1/2 R (CW) stepping R,L,R,L.

VI. "APACHE" STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

This whole figure is danced "cheek-to-cheek" and bent fwd at waist so that the "derriere" protrudes.

- 1-2 Moving in LOD step fwd on L pushing joined hands fwd twd W hip (ct 1), step in place on R (ct &), step bkwd on L pulling joined hands back twd M hip (ct 2), step in place on R (ct &). Repeat action of meas 1
- 3-4 With joined hands at M hip and beg L, M walk fwd 8 steps turning heel of trailing ft out with each step (keep front of ft in contact with floor -- hips do not turn or twist). W walk bkwd with "Broken Ankle" (no wt) on trailing or fwd ft.
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VI) three more times.

VII. BOUNCY HEEL AND TOE (To ctr and out)

- 1 Standing upright in closed ballroom pos with M facing LOD, hop on R placing L heel

out to L (ct 1), hop on R placing L toe across in front of R (ct 2).

2 Moving twd ctr step sdwd L on L (ct 1), close R to L (ct &), step sdwd L on L (ct 2), hold (ct &).

3 Step on R in front and slightly to L of L "Broken Ankle" (ct 1), step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 2).

4 Step on R beside L (ct 1), bounce on both ft (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VII) with opp ftwk and moving in opp direction.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VII).

VIII. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

1-16 Repeat action of Fig I meas 1-16.

IX. SDWD TWO-STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

1-16 Repeat action of Fig II meas 1-16.

X. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

1-15 Repeat action of Fig I meas 1-15.

16 Still facing LOD stamp L with body bent from waist and joined hands pointed twd stamping ft (ct 1), stamp L with joined hands extended overhead and body upright (ct 2).