

Although this dance is not mentioned by Milicević (1876, 1884), it is now performed by a number of village groups from northeast Serbia as an old dance from that region. It was noted by the Janković sisters in 1938 in Homolje (1952, pp. 122-4) and M. Ilijin in Negotinska Krajina in 1958 (1958, p. 43), both of which are areas with a high percentage of Vlachs. It was also noted in a survey of the Aleksinac area in 1948 (Antonijević 1971, p. 242). The young dancers from the Soko Banja area who did this dance for me indicated that they believed it had not been done in their region until more recent times and that it came from an area to the north and east, Homolje and the Negotin area. I have been recently informed by Richard Crum that similar dances are performed in southern Romania either under the title Sokec (dialectal for "rat") or Šobelanu. Although the Janković sisters state that it is a Serbian dance also done by the Vlachs (1952, p. 123), I would agree with M. Ilijin (1958, p. 43) who includes it in a list of Vlach dances which are also done by Serbs.

The dance is structurally distinguished by its alternation of several measures of 5/8 (or 9/16) with several of 7/8 (or 13/16). The number of measures of each vary, although it is usually a multiple of four. American folk dancers, particularly in the West, may have learned one dance by this name and belonging to this family from Dennis Boxell who learned it in the northeast Serbian village of Neresnica.

RECORD: Selo LP-1, Traditional Songs and Dances from the Soko Banja Area

METER: Four measures of 5/8 alternating with four measures of 7/8

FORMATION: The dance is performed in an open circle with the leader on the right. The line of direction is alternately to the right, and forward and back. Dancers' bodies face center, although they turn somewhat to the right and the left during the execution of the dance,

Hands are joined with neighbors' hands and arms are allowed to hang naturally.

### PATTERN

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Count</u>		
1	1	Leap R diagonally fwd and to the R.	Face L of ctr.
	2	Leap L behind R to R (move RLOD).	
	3	Leap R to R (move RLOD).	Face R of ctr.
	4	Step L across in front of R to R (move RLOD).	
2 - 4		Repeat motion and ftwk in meas. 1, three more times.	
5	1	Leap fwd onto R (move into circle).	Face ctr. Arms are swung slightly fwd.
	2	Step back on L (small step).	Arms are allowed to drop back to natural position.
	3	Small step back on R.	
	4	Small step back on L.	
	5	Step R by L.	
	6	Small step fwd on L.	

(over)

2

SOKEC  
(continued)

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Count</u>
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6 - 8

Repeat motion and ftwk of meas. 5, three more times.

VARIATIONS:

1. The amount of turning of the body during the 5/8 measures varies considerably from dancer to dancer.
2. One female dancer consistently did not step on ct. 4 of meas. 4. She then began meas. 5 with a leap fwd on the L ft. Ct. 2 is held. Cts. 3-6 are as above. Meas. 6 reverses meas. 5. Meas. 7 and 8 repeat 5 and 6 except that no step is taken on ct. 6 of meas. 8.

Presented by Bob Leibman  
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