

SUS OJITOS  
A traditional regional Mexican clog dance

Record: Peerless 3032. Sus Ojitos.

Source: Carlos Rosas, University of Mexico, Mexico City, and the National Department of Education, Mexico.

Formation: This dance is done in several formations, depending upon the number of dancers and the limitations of the dance area. It may be done in a double circle, M on the outside, partners facing each other. It may be done in a longways formation, partners facing each other. It may be done in two longways formations which are crossed at the center at right angles.

Introduction: The couples are seated on the floor in no particular formation. They rise and take their places in a formation in time for the first step. Sixteen measures.

- 1st step This is essentially a two-step waltz, heavily accented on the first beat of the measure. It may be begun on either foot. For exhibition purposes it would probably be advisable, however, that all start on the same foot. On the first beat of the measure leap forward and to the L with the L foot. On the second beat close with the R foot and shift weight to L foot. On the third beat shift weight to L foot. On first beat of next measure leap forward and to the R with R foot. Close with L foot and shift weight to L foot. Shift weight to R foot. The first step of each measure is very loud, for the dancers leap squarely on the foot and not on the ball of the foot. The rhythmic beat of the dancers' feet becomes a part of the musical accompaniment. With eight of these accented waltz steps, the M changes places with his partner. They dance in place, facing each other, for eight measures. They change places again with eight measures and dance in place for eight measures. This entire sequence is repeated. Sixty-four measures.
- 2nd step Beginning with either foot, partners approach each other with four waltz steps. They waltz balance in place for four more measures. They back away from each other with four waltz balance steps and balance in place for four measures. This entire sequence is repeated. Thirty-two measures.
- 3rd step Again the accented two-step waltz as done in the first step. If in a circle formation the dancers move counterclockwise around the circle. If in a longways formation, the dancers may lead around in a circle, returning to their original longways formation. Sixteen measures.
- 4th step The same as the first, continuing until the record ends.
- Style The M's hands are clasped behind his back. He dances with his entire body when he does the accented two-step waltz, the zapateado. He is relaxed and loose-jointed. He leads with his near shoulder as he leaps on the first beat of each measure. The W's hands are holding her skirts at the sides. Her dancing is more restrained than the M's.
- Costume Preferably, they should be dressed in the ranchero dress of the Jalisco region.