

TANDORA

Croatia

Notes by Dick Crum for Aman Institute '94

The melody of *Tandora* (tahn'-doh-rah [a nonsense word]) is used for dancing throughout the Pannonian plainland (the regions of Slavonia [eastern Croatia] and Vojvodina [northern Serbia]). In Slavonia, the dances done to it are usually in circle formation (kolos), while in Vojvodina they are generally couple dances or some combination of couple and circle. The name *Tandora* is actually quite rare; most dances done to this tune are called *Tandrčak* or *Tandrče* (meaning 'clatter').

The dance described here is from the village of Babina Greda in the region of Slavonia, and is taken from a videotape made there in the summer of 1981 by Larry Weiner (thanks, Larry!) during a performance of the village exhibition folklore group.

- Recordings** Theoretically, any recording of *Tandrčak* (Folk Dancer MH 1014, Monitor MF 344 II-3, Folkraft 1570A, etc.) can be used; however, the music on an import, Jugoton LSY 66066 I-6, *Tandora*, is in more typical Slavonian style.
- Formation** Dancers, mixed M and W, in closed circle, hands joined in front basket position, L arm under, R arm over.
- Meter** 2/4

Meas	Count	Action
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Part 1 - Drmeš in place

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| 1 | 1 | Facing center, step Rft in place with some emphasis and very slight flex of R knee. |
| | 2 | Step Lft in place beside Rft without emphasis. |
| | & | Step Rft in place beside Lft without emphasis. |

All steps are on the flat foot, even stressing heel. Some dancers (most of the women and often the men) do a simple 'bounce-bounce' on both feet, "inside their shoes", during counts 2&, instead of alternating feet as described above.

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| 2 | Same steps as in meas 1 with opposite footwork. |
| 3-8 | Repeat movements of meas 1-2 three more times (for a total of four). |

Part 2 - Traveling step-hops

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| 9 | Turning to face L, begin to move in this direction (reverse line of direction or clockwise around) with step-hop on Rft, swing Lft up and across with L knee slightly bent (men); women simply extend Lft across low. |
| 10 | Same movements (step-hop) with Lft, swing Rft. |

11-16 Six more step-hops as in meas 9-10 (for a total of eight, turning to face center on the eighth step-hop).

NOTE: As performed by the Babina Greda village exhibition group, Part 2 is done in place, facing center, on alternate replays of the 'B' music. Suspecting this is probably an agreed-up pattern for exhibition purposes, I have chosen to teach only the traveling form.

Song lyrics

As a folk song, Tandora has no fixed, standard lyrics; as a matter of fact, it is subject to much improvisation, and, like many dance songs of the Pannonian repertoire, its verses are often full of double meanings and undisguised sexual references. The verses given below are those sung on the Jugoton recording listed under "Recordings" above.

TANDORA

\: Tan, tan, tandora,	Tan, tan, tandora,
sjela cura pod ora', :\	a girl sat under a nut tree,
\: sjela cura pa šije,	she sat there sewing,
prid njom litra rakije. :\	with a liter of brandy in front of her.
\: Tan, tan, tandora,	Tan, tan, tandora,
nema cura lopera, :\	the girl doesn't have a wash bowl,
\: nema cura kopanje,	the girl doesn't have a wash trough,
pa iskala od Franje. :\	so she asked Franjo for one.
\: Tan, tan, tandora,	Tan, tan, tandora,
sjela cura pod ora', :\	a girl sat down under a nut tree,
\: sjela cura na vreću,	a girl sat down on a sack,
svi je ljube, ja neću ! :\	everybody kisses her, but I won't !