

EL TRANCHETE

(Mexico)

El Tranchete (El Trahn-CHEH-teh) is a small knife for harvesting a variety of cactus used in making the popular Mexican beverage, tequila. This version of El Tranchete, a dance from the State of Jalisco, was introduced to California folk dancers at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California, in 1967, by Senora Alura Flores de Angeles of Mexico City.

MUSIC: Record: RCA Victor 76-1147, "El Tranchete." RCA Victor MKS 1224, "El Mejor Mariachi del Mundo," Side 2, B and 2, imported. RCA-MKL 1224, Side 2, Band 2.

FORMATION: Lines of cpls in longways formation, M with L shoulder twd music. Ptrs face each other, standing about 6 ft apart, R ft free. W hold skirt out at sides with both hands, her elbows slightly curved away from the body. M clasp own hands behind his back.

STEPS AND STYLING: Jarabe Step (1 meas of 6/8 music): Stamp fwd on R heel (ct 1); step on ball of L ft next to R ft (ct 2); step on ball of R ft in place (ct 3); repeat action of cts 1, 2, 3, using opp ftwork (cts 4, 5, 6). When danced in 3/4 meter, use one meas (cts 1, &, 2, &, 3, &). W long, full skirt is used gracefully in the turns to contrast with the small, sharp ftwork. The M leans a little fwd from the waist. Action is the same for both M and W except in Finale.

MUSIC 3/4, 6/8, 2/4

PATTERN

Measures INTRODUCTION - As there is no introduction on the record, dancers may wait during the first 2 meas of music and begin dancing on meas 3.

I. ZAPATEADO IN PLACE

- 3/4
A 1 Turning to face slightly R, stamp L ft in place (ct 1); stamp R heel fwd and slightly R (ct &); stamp L ft in place (ct 2); stamp R heel fwd and slightly R (ct &); stamp L ft in place (ct 3); stamp R heel fwd and slightly R (ct &). W hold skirt fwd with R hand and back with L.
2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwork, facing slightly L and W holding skirt fwd with L and bkwd with R.
3-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 two more times.
7 Dance 1 Jarabe step in place beginning L (cts 1, &, 2, &, 3, &).
8 Stamp L ft in place (ct 1); stamp R in place (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8. Last stamp R in meas 8 (repeated) is without wt.
(repeated)

II. CHANGING PLACES (6/8 and 3/4 meter alternating)

During meas 1-8 each dancer cross over to opp line, passing ptr with R shoulder. W hold skirt fwd with both hands.

- 6/8
B 1 Beginning with R ft dance one Jarabe Step moving fwd twd ptr.
3/4
2 Stamp R ft fwd (ct 1); stamp L fwd (ct 2); stamp R fwd (ct 3).
3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II), using opp ftwork.
5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II).
7 Repeat action of meas 3 (Fig II), starting a 1/2 turn R (CW) to face ptr.
8 Facing ptr, stamp L (ct 1); stamp R without wt (ct 2); hold (ct 3).
1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II), returning to original pos, passing ptr with R shoulder, and turning R (CW) to face ptr on meas 7-8.
(repeated)

III. TURNS

- 2/4
C 1 W hold skirt out at sides. Facing ptr, both step slightly to R with R ft (ct 1); stamp L heel beside R ft without wt (ct &); step slightly to L with L ft (ct 2); stamp R heel beside L ft without wt (ct &).
2-4 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig III) three more times, steps gradually becoming smaller so that there is no sdwd movement during meas 4.
3/4
5 Continue the same ftwork dancing in place, counting:
Step R (ct 1); stamp L heel (ct &); step L (ct 2); stamp R heel (ct &); step R (ct 3);

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stamp L heel (ct &).

- 6-8 Repeat action of meas 5 (Fig III) three more times in place, starting on alternate ft.
9-12 Repeat ftwork of meas 5-8 (Fig III), but turn CW (R) in place individually. W hold skirt fwd with R hand and look over her R shoulder as she turns R.
13-16 Repeat action of meas 9-12 (Fig III), but turn CCW (L), W reversing skirt action and looking over L shoulder.
17-24 Repeat action of meas 9-16 (Fig III).
56 meas Repeat action of Fig I, II, and III once more.

FINALE

- 3/4
A 1-5 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-5.
6 Move twd ptr with a stamp on R ft (ct 1); hold (cts 2, 3).
7 Ptrs join R hands as W completes a 3/4 spin L (CCW) on L ft and M makes a 1/4 turn L on L ft (cts 1, 2). Finish with joined R hands at W waist, both facing music. Join L hands in front of M L shoulder. Hold (ct 3).
8 Both stamp R ft in place (ct 1); stamp L ft fwd (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

