

TSAMIKO (Greece)



Most Greek folk dances are circle dances requiring no partners. The leader, usually a man, improvises a great many acrobatic feats on the step. The others follow him, doing the basic figure over and over. The *Tsamiko* may be done to many tunes, but the one given here is particularly good for American folk dancers.

OPENING FORMATION: Broken circle, with leader at one end. The circle is linked with kerchiefs held by the dancers. The leader has a kerchief in his free hand, which he waves at will.

THE STEP: All face center, with hands joined at shoulder level. Step to right on right foot—

counts 1 and 2. Cross left foot over right, putting full weight on left—count 3. (As you cross left foot over, turn left heel toward the right before putting it down.)

Step to right and cross left foot over right again. Step to right and cross left over right again. (This makes a total of 3 times.)

Now step to right on right foot; lift left foot, swinging it up in front of right, with high lift, knee bent and toe pointing left. Pause. Step to the left on the left foot.

Cross right foot over left.

Step to the left on left foot. Lift right foot, with knee bent and toe pointing right. Pause. Repeat the whole dance.