

ŽIKINO KOLO (VRANJANKA)

Notes by Dick Crum for *ŽviLA TAMBURA* '93

Competing with *Malo kolo* as the most popular dance in the American kolo repertory, *Žikino kolo* ('Žika's kolo') was regularly done in the 1950's by South Slavs everywhere in the eastern U.S., including the Macedonians, who called it *Šana* (from *Šano dušo...* the first line of the old lyrics of *Žikino*'s alternate tune, *Vranjanka* - see below).

The only dance in triple meter among U.S. kolos, *Žikino* was usually played very fast, with a strong, driving beat. Like *Malo kolo*, it brought everyone to their feet at any dance event, and was played as many as three or four times in an evening or afternoon.

Structurally, *Žikino* belongs to the *Kokonješte*-pattern kolos (see also *Čuješ mala* and *Šušu mile*), with its footwork and A-B-C-B-C melodic pattern; its distinctive feature is its 3/4 time signature ("*Kokonješte* in 3/4 time").

Žikino kolo was danced to several different melodies, one of which, *Vranjanka*, was a speeded-up version of the old, slow-paced dance of the same name. One feature of particularly old recordings (those from Europe, and also as recorded by the Banat Tamburitza Orchestra, is a slight hold on the first beat of each measure ($\bar{\text{J}} \text{ } \underline{\text{J}} \text{ } \underline{\text{J}}$). In the 1950's at least, this hold was only heard in the playing of the Banat orchestra. All other orchestras played it in strict 3/4 time.

A two-line little song was sometimes sung to *Žikino*'s "C" music:

*Igrajte, deco, Žikino kolo,
Žikino kolo, ko ne bi vol'o?
or*

*Igrajte, deco, Žikino kolo,
Žika će vama svirati solo!*

Dance, kids, *Žikino kolo*,
Žikino kolo, who wouldn't like it?

Dance, kids, *Žikino kolo*,
Žika will play for you solo!

DESCRIPTION OF DANCE

Formation Open circle or chain of dancers, male and female, hands joined and held down at sides ("V" position)
Meter 3/4

Facing very slightly right of center and moving to right (counterclockwise around):

Meas 1	ct 1	Step Rft to R.
	ct 2	Hop on Rft, bring Lft across in front of Rft, low in air.
	ct 3	Step Lft across in front of Rft.

Meas 2	ct 1	Facing center, step Rft in place or very slightly sideward R.
	ct 2	Step Lft across in front of Rft.
	ct 3	Step Rft in place.

Meas 3	ct 1	Step Lft in place or very slightly sideward L.
	ct 2	Step Rft across in front of Lft.
	ct 3	Step Lft in place.

Meas 4	ct 1	Step Rft in place or very slightly sideward R.
	ct 2	Step Lft across in front of Rft.
	ct 3	Step Rft in place.

Repeat movements of measures 1-4 moving to the L with opposite footwork, as follows:

Meas 5	ct 1	Step Lft to L.
	ct 2	Hop on Lft, bringing Rft across in front of Lft, low in air.
	ct 3	Step Rft across in front of Lft.

Meas 6	ct 1	Facing center, step Lft in place or very slightly sideward L.
	ct 2	Step Rft across in front of Lft.
	ct 3	Step Lft in place.

Meas 7	ct 1	Step Rft in place or very slightly sideward R.
	ct 2	Step Lft across in front of Rft.
	ct 3	Step Rft in place.

Meas 8	ct 1	Step Lft in place or very slightly sideward L.
	ct 2	Step Rft across in front of Lft.
	ct 3	Step Lft in place.