

KUCAJ KUCAJ MOME  
(Bulgaria)

This dance belongs to the so-called "Kuča" type of dances, which probably came into existence as an imitation of somebody in the village with unequal legs. Therefore named: "Kučata" ("the cripple's dance"). The title translates as "You, limping girl." Different variations of "kučata" and "Kučaj, kučaj mome" are to be found in the region north of the town Veliko Târnovo, Severniaško. This version was learned by Jaap Leegwater during a field research trip in Bulgaria in 1979.

Pronunciation:

Record: LP "Folk Dances from Bulgaria-3" by Jaap Leegwater  
JL 1985.01 Side B/7 7/8 meter:

Meter: 7/8 1-2, 1-2, 1-2-3 Counted here as  
1 2 3 or Q,Q,S

Formation: Short lines. Belt hold, L over.

Meas

Pattern

16 meas

Introduction.

I.

Facing ctr, hop on L ft, extending R leg fwd, knee straight, R ft is flexed (ct &).

1 Step fwd on R ft, bending R knee (cts 1-2); hop on R ft in place (ct 3); hop on R ft in place (ct &).

2 Step bkwd on L ft, bending L knee (cts 1-2); hop on L ft (ct 3).

3 Slight hop on L ft in place, extending R leg sdwd R close to the floor (ct 1); step on R ft sdwd R (ct 2); step on L ft beside R ft (ct 3).

4 Repeat meas 3.

5 One Râćenica step (RLR) fwd twd ctr as follows: step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft (ct 2); step on R ft, raising L ft to L side, knees together (ct 3).

6 Close L ft to R ft with a sharp click, wt on both ft equally (ct 1); hold (ct 2); hop on R ft, pumping L heel in front (ct 3).

7-8 Two Râćenica steps bkwd (LRL, RLR).

9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, reversing ftwk and directions.

II.

Facing ctr, moving sdwd L. Pos of ft: L toes point diag L, R toes point twd ctr, knees slightly turned out.

1 Hop on L ft, extending R leg to ctr and leaning slightly bkwd (ct 1); step on R ft in front of L, straightening the body (ct 2); step on L ft sdwd L (ct 3).

2-3 Repeat meas 1 two more times.

4 Lift R leg horizontal to floor in front (cts 1-2); slap and step on R ft in front of L, leaning fwd (ct 3).

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- 5 Body still leaning fwd, čukče on R ft, lifting L ft behind R calf (ct 1); step on L ft sdwd L (ct 2); step on R ft in front of L ft (ct 3).
- 6-7 Repeat meas 5 two more times.
- 8 Čukče on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft sdwd L, straightening and turning body twd ctr (ct 2); step on R ft beside L (ct 3).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8, reversing ftwk and directions.

SEQUENCE OF THE DANCE

Introduction: 16 meas  
 Fig I - 2 x  
 Fig II- 1 x  
 Fig I - 2 x  
 Fig II- 1 x  
 Fig I - 1 x

N.B. Finish the dance by changing the last Râčenica step in Fig I into a leap onto L ft, raising R knee in front (cts 1-2), close and stamp on R ft beside L.

Description by Jaap Leegwater

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