

PRAVO TRAKIJSKO HORO  
(Bulgaria)

"Pravo Horo" (straight dance) is from the Trakija region of Bulgaria and is the most widespread and most popular folk dance throughout all of Bulgaria. Every region and every village has its own version reflecting the typical local style and characteristics. A North Bulgarian "Pravo" (Dunavsko Horo or Svištovsko Horo) is different from the "Pravo Trakijsko" or the Pravo type (Opas) which is done in Dobrudža. Still they are based on the same three measure basic pattern consisting of two small steps (quick-quick) followed by two bigger ones (slow-slow). Beyond the typical local variations one can find this typical Pravo character. Similar dances are also done in other Balkan countries, like the "Hora" in Roumania and the "Hasapikos" in Greece.

Due to migrations, travelling musicians that are hired for local festivals and weddings caused the "Pravo Trakijsko Horo" to gain great popularity also outside the Trakija region. It is done at weddings and festivals all over the country and seemed to be adopted as the national "Pravo Horo."

The following patterns are good examples of some of the most popular variations. Jaap Leegwater learned these variations in 1978 from Dimitâr Dojčinov, choreography and dance instructor at the Choreographer School in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

**Pronunciation:**

**Record:** LP "Folk Dances from Bulgaria - 3" by Jaap Leegwater  
JL 1985.01 Side A/4 2/4 meter

**Formation:** Open or half circle. Hands joined in belt hold, L arm over.

**Style:** Slight knee bend pos, dancing on the whole ft. After starting with the slow basic step fwd and bkwd, the music becomes livelier and faster.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
6 meas	<u>Introduction.</u>
	<u>Part 1 "Trakijka"</u>
1	Facing and moving diag R fwd, step R,L, (cts 1,2).
2	Step on R ft with knee bending (ct 1); bounce on R ft and lift L off the floor (ct 2).
3	Step on L ft with knee bending (ct 1); step on R ft sdwd R in second pos, bending both knees (ct 2).
4	Lift on R ft and raise L ft off the floor (ct 1); step on L ft diag R bkwd (ct 2).
5-6	Repeat meas 2-3 turning to face diag L and moving diag R bkwd.
7-24	Repeat meas 1-6 three more times.

PRAVO TRAKIJSKO HORO (Continued)Part 2 "Prisitvanè"

- 1 Facing and moving diag R fwd, step R,L (cts 1,2).
- 2 Step R,L,R (cts 1,&,2).
- 3 Step L,R,L (cts 1,&,2).
- 4 Turning to face diag L, moving diag R bkwd, step R,L (cts 1,2).
- 5 Step R,L,R (cts 1,&,2).
- 6 Hop on R ft, immediately followed by a step on L ft (ct 1);  
hop on L ft, lifting R knee (ct 2).
- 7-24 Repeat meas 1-6 three more times.

Part 3(a)

- 1 Facing and moving diag R fwd, low leap onto R ft (ct 1); low  
leap onto L ft (ct 2).
- 2 Hop on L ft, swinging R leg straight across in front of  
L (ct 1); step fwd on R ft (ct 2).
- 3 Step fwd on L ft (ct 1); stamp R ft, no wt, next to L ft,  
bending both knees (ct 2).
- 4-6 Repeat Part 2, meas 4-6.
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6.

Part 3 (b)

- 1-2 Repeat Part 3(a), meas 1-2.
- 3 Step fwd on L ft (ct 1); strike R toes across behind L and  
look across L shldr (ct 2).
- 4-6 Repeat Part 2, meas 4-6.
- 7-12 Repeat meas 1-6.

Part 4 (a)

- 1 Facing ctr, moving sdwd R, step on R ft (ct 1); step on L ft  
behind R (ct 2).
- 2 Three small steps on the whole ft in place R,L,R (cts 1,&,2).
- 3 Repeat meas 2 with opp ftwk.
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three more times.

Part 4(b)

- 1-3 Repeat Part 4(a), meas 1-3 stressing the first step of meas 1,  
swinging the arms down, bkwd and up again to "W" pos.
- 4-12 Repeat meas 1-3 three more times.

Suggested Sequence: Introduction  
 Part 1  
 Part 2  
 Part 1  
 Part 3(a) 2x  
 Part 3(b)  
 Part 4(a)  
 Part 4(b)

The above sequence is based on the accompanying recording.

Description by Jaap Leegwater

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Presented by Jaap Leegwater