

Ajd' na livo

(Croatian)

This mixed circle dance is done in the Pannonian zone of Croatia in the regions of Slavonia, Srijem, and in the Dinaric zone in the region of Lika, during holidays and festive occasions. At one time, the dance was done to the accompaniment of a two-piped woodwind instrument, tambura "smica," or bagpipe (gajde). Today it is done to the accompaniment of a tambura orchestra.

Other ways to spell the name of the dance are: "hajd' na levo," and "ajd na levo." The different spellings of the title reflect the various Croatian dialects that are spoken in the regions that this dance comes from. Other versions of this dance have been taught, and all of them are very similar. The dance was researched by Željko Jergan in Slavonija and Baranja during 1978. This dance was presented by him at the 1995 Santa Barbara Symposium. The name translates as "Let's go left."

Pronunciation: IGHD nah LEE-voh

Music: Tape: "Jerry Grcevich; Croatian Folk Dances; vol 1.;" "Treasury of Croatian Dances"
Record: Kolo 404 (45 rpm); Aman 106 (LP) 4/4 and 2/4 meter

Formation: Closed circle, alternating M and W, facing ctr, hands joined in escort pos—R arm bent and across body at waist, L arm resting on neighbor's upper arm.

Steps and Styling: Side-close: Step on L to L, upper body tilting very slightly twd R (not hips) (ct 1); step on R beside L, straightening body (ct 2); repeat cts 1, 2 (cts 3,4).

The chorus is slow and smooth, when moving sdwd L and R. Parts I, II, and III are faster with drmeš (shaking) style movements (flat-footed steps).

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION. Fast music. Depends on recording being used. 8 meas on camp tape.

4/4 meter CHORUS: STEP-CLOSE (Slow music)

1-2 Facing ctr and moving sdwd L, do 4 Step-close steps (8 steps in all). Close but do not take wt on last step.

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk, moving sdwd R.

2/4 meter PART I: RUN FORWARD AND BACKWARD (Fast music)

1 Moving fwd twd ctr, low leap fwd onto L (ct 1); small run R, L fwd (cts &,2). Note: ftwk is flat-footed.

2-4 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk 3 more times (4 times in all), except do meas 4 in place with accent.

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4, moving bkwd.

4/4 meter CHORUS (Slow music)

1-4 Repeat Chorus, meas 1-4.

2/4 meter PART II: BOUNCE IN PLACE (Fast music)

1 Facing ctr and dancing in place with wt on both ft, bounce on both ft with bent knees (ct 1); bounce 2 times more on heels (drmeš/shake) (cts 2,&). Note: Upper body leans slightly fwd.

2-8 Repeat meas 1. (8 bounces in all)

Ajd' na livo—continued

4/4 meter CHORUS (Slow music)

1-4 Repeat Chorus, meas 1-4.

2/4 meter PART III: BOUNCE, FORWARD, PAS DE BASQUE WITH STEP-HOP BACKWARD
(Fast music)

1-2 Facing ctr and dancing in place, repeat Part II, meas 1 (2 sets of bounces).

3 Moving fwd twd ctr, do 4 small running steps fwd, R, L, R, L (cts 1,&,2,&).

4 Step fwd on R (ct 1); hop on R as L lifts low in front of R (ct 2).

5 Pas de basque L moving bkwd: Leap bkwd onto L (ct 1); step bkwd on R across L (ct &); step on L behind R (ct 2).

6 Step bkwd on R (ct 1); hop on R as L lifts low in front of R (ct 2).

7-8 Repeat meas 5-6, moving fwd twd ctr.

1-36 Repeat entire dance from the beginning one more time (2 times in all).

ENDING

1-4 Repeat Chorus.

1-15 Repeat Part I twice, except for last meas.

16 Stamp R, L in place (last meas of dance).

Dance notes by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw 5-96

Presented by Željko Jergan