

Moldovan

(Croatia)

Moldovan means "Moldavia." This dance is one of a very few solo dances from the Podravina region in northwestern Croatia. In the Carpathian mountains, many dances are done using sticks. This dance is usually done jumping over rolling pins, and was probably influenced by Moldavian customs, as young soldiers were recruited to serve in the army in Moldavia. This dance exists in only three villages in the Podravian region—Virje, Molve, and Repaš—and is usually done at weddings and during social gatherings between young men and women during the long winter months indoors. M would try to impress the women with their agility and precision.

The dance was reserached in 1955 by Dr Ivan Ivančan. Željko Jergan learned the dance in 1975 from Dr. Ivančan in LADO, Folk Dance Ensemble of Croatia.

Pronunciation: MOHL-doh-vahn

Cassette: Croatian Dances 1998 Side A/3; Croatian Folk Dances Vol. 2, by Jerry Grcevich Side B/2 2/4 meter

Formation: Although this dance was originally a M's competitive dance, it is danced individually in cpls, lines, closed circle(s), or semi-circle formations. It can be done by 2 M or a M and W across from each other. M hands are low on hip with fingers fwd; W hands are on hips with fingers fwd, or sometimes cpls have crossed hands in a two-hand hold pos.

Steps: Scissors: Step on R in place as L extends fwd close to floor (ct 1); repeat ct 1 with opp ftwk (ct &).

Pas de basque to R: Leap sdwd R onto R (ct 1); step on L across in front of R (ct &); step on R back to place (ct 2). The steps on cts &, 2 are on the full ft.

Styling: Similar to Moldavian dances in positioning. Upper body is very still and rigid, with intricate ftwk. Figures are improvised based on the ability of the dancers.

Meas Pattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION. No action—4 slow beats.

1. BOUNCES AND SCISSORS

During this fig, most of the ftwk is flat-footed, small, and close to the floor.

1-2 Facing ctr, with ft together, bounce 4 times on heels (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).

3-4 Dancing in place, step on L in place (ct 1); bounce on L as R lifts in front of L (R ft parallel to floor) (ct &); repeat cts 1, & three times alternating ftwk (cts 2, &, 1, &, 2, &). (Beg L, 4 step-bounces in all)

5 Step on L in place (ct 1); bounce on L as R lifts in front of L (R ft parallel to floor) (ct &); in this pos, bounce 2 more times on L (cts 2, &).

6-7 Do 8 scissors, beg R (cts 1, &, 2, &, 1, &, 2, &).

8 Stamp R in place, with wt (ct 1); hop on R in place as L lifts across R (ct &); step on L across R (ct 2).

9-10 Pas de basque R and L.

11-22 Repeat meas 1-10, except do meas 1-2 twice (8 bounces).

Moldovan—continued

II. 8 CROSSOVER STEPS

- 1 Facing ctr and dancing in place, hop on R in place as L lifts fwd (ct 1); hop on R as ball of L ft touches across R, turning to face slightly R of ctr (ct &); drop on L across R as R lifts bkwd (ct 2).
- 2-8 Repeat meas 1, alternating ftwk and direction, except on last ct (meas 8, ct 2), jump onto both ft in place.

III. FWD AND BKWD WITH STAMPS: BUZZ

- 1 Facing ctr and moving fwd, stamp-hop R in front of L, hips turning twd L of ctr (cts 1, &); stamp-hop on L in front of R, hips turning twd R of ctr (cts 2, &).
- 2 Stamp R, L, R in place (cts 1, &, 2).
- 3 Moving bkwd away from ctr, beg L, do 2 step-hops, except M do a reel step (step directly behind weighted ft).
- 4 Stamp L, R, L in place (cts 1, &, 2).
- 5-8 Beg R, do 8 buzz steps turning CW in place.

Repeat dance from beg to end of music.

Original description by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw

Presented by Željko Jergan

