

Posavski drmeši

(Croatia)

The name of the dance is translated as "Shaking dances from Posavina." Posavina is the fertile lowland extending through Croatia along the Sava River. Political, economic, and cultural conditions have made it possible for the local population to live with a healthy, happy, and optimistic outlook, which is reflected through the dances and songs of this region. The accompaniment for the dances was traditionally with a bagpipe, but today is mostly with the tamburitza orchestra. Željko Jergan researched these dances from Croatian Posavina from 1974 to 1986. The special style from this region is the contrasting movements from shaking to very fluid.

Pronunciation: POH-sahv-skee DER-mesh-ee

Cassette: Croatian Dances 1998 Side A/5; Croatian Folk Dances Vol. 1, by Jerry Grcevich Side B/1 2/4 meter

Formation: Closed circle of 8-12 dancers, joined in back-basket hold (L over R). Traditionally, a circle would have an unlimited number of dancers, but this is not practical for recreational purposes.

Steps and Styling: Three basic steps: A walking/buzz step; drmeš(shaking); vrtnja (spin turn). These steps can be combined without any set rules.

Šetnja: It can be done with a *smooth* walking step or with a very slight down-up movement as in a buzz step. When moving to L, step on R across L (ct 1); step fwd on ball of L ft (heel very close to floor) (ct 2). When moving to R, beg L across R.

Drmeš: Start by stepping on R. Keep ft parallel about 5" apart with L about 2" fwd of R. Step on R beside L with bounce (ct 1); bounce on R as heel taps floor slightly to L, wt evenly distributed (ct 2); bounce again on R while taking full wt on L where it tapped (ct &). Repeat with opp ftwk.

Vrtnja: Can be done with the slower *smooth* single-count step or done quickly in double-time with a buzz step feeling.

Meas

Pattern

I. DRMEŠ #1: ŠETNJA: STAMPS: ROCK IN AND OUT

- 1-6 In back basket hold, hold in place the 1st time through the dance. The 2nd and 3rd times, replace the "hold" with meas 9-14 (6 cross-over steps).
- 7-8 Stamp R, L, R, L in place (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).
- 9-14 Moving to L, do 12 smooth walking steps (6 cross-over steps) beg R across L.
- 15-16 Continuing to move L, stamp R, L, R, L.
- 17 Step on R in front of L twd ctr with double bounces (cts 1, 2).
- 18 Step on L slightly diag L bkwd out of the circle with double bounce (cts 1, 2).
- 19-22 Repeat meas 17-18, stepping in and out, twice more (total of 2 in-and-out steps).
- 23-24 Stamp R, L, R, L in place (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).
- 25-32 Repeat meas 17-24 (in and out, stamps).
- 33-36 Moving to L, do 7 smooth walking steps (4 cross-over steps) (cts 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1); hold (ct 2).
- 37 Step on L to L (sway), bending then straightening knees, leave R toe where it stepped (cts 1, 2).
- 38 Sway on R to R as in meas 36 (cts 1, 2).
- 39-40 Repeat meas 37-40, except on last step (R), step-hop on R as L circles fwd (meas 40, cts 2, &) (Cue: 4 sways, L, R, L, R).

Posavski drmeši—continued

- 41-80 Repeat dance from beg, moving to R with opp ftwk (beg L across R).
 81-112 Repeat dance from beg through meas 32, moving to L. (End with rock in and out step with stamps.)

II. DRMEŠ #2; ĐRMEŠ and BUZZ

- 1-7 Moving sdwd to L, do 7 drmeš steps, beg stepping on R.
 8 Transition: Step on R beside L (ct 1); bounce on R (ct 2).
 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 with opp ftwk and direction (beg L, move R).
 17-24 Moving to L, do 8 buzz steps, beg R across L. On last ct, pivot on r as L circles fwd.
 25-32 Moving to r, repeat meas 17-24 with opp ftwk. Note: Slight down-up (flat-ball) feeling.
 33-64 Repeat meas 1-32 (2 times in all).

III. DRMEŠ #1

- 1-16 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-8 (6 cross-over; stamps) twice.
 17-28 Moving to L, do 24 fast buzz steps (2 buzz per meas).
 29-30 Still moving to L, stamp R, L, R, L, R, L (cts 1, &, 2, 1, &, 2).
 31 Stamp R, L, R, L—slow circle down.
 32 Stamp R, L in place.

Original description by Željko Jergan and Dorothy Daw
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