

Šokačko kolo

(Baranja, Croatia)



This dance is done in Slavonija, Baranja, and Bačka, although this variation is from Baranja, which is located between the Dunav river, and the lower part of the Drava river, in the Pannonian plains of Croatia. Although there are only a few dances from Baranja, the wealth of the dances lies in their variation and preservation until today. No festivity or celebration would be complete without dancing Šokačko kolo. This dance begins with the drmeš, which is interrupted by singing and walking in rhythm in the circle. This pattern is repeated over and over until the musicians, usually a tambura orchestra or bagpipe (“gajde”)

player in the center of the circle, stops playing. This dance was learned by Željko Jergan in 1989 at Đakovački Vezovi (Village group of Draž).

Translation: Circle dance of the Šokac (shoh-KAHTS) people.

Pronunciation: shoh-KAHCH-koh KOH-loh

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Baština Hrvatskog Sela* by Otrov, Band 14.
Cassette: “Croatian Folk Dances” by Jerry Grceovich, Vol. II, side B/1.

Formation: Non-partner dance, but usually mixed M, W, M, W around the circle. M join hands behind W’s backs or belts; W’s hands are on M’s shldr. If there are more W than M, use either a back-basket hold or hold belts (R over L).

Steps and Styling: Extremely rigid with vertical movements and sometimes with bent knees. As the kolo progresses, M improvise using any one of many variations, while W must do only the basic step.

Drmeš: Done on the balls of the ft, legs are somewhat stiff, while the steps are bouncy. Bounces come from the ankles and dancing on the balls of the ft. The steps to the L are larger than those to the R (the circle progresses sdwd L)

Meas Music: 2/4 meter Pattern

INTRODUCTION 8 chords.

I. DRMEŠ (fast music)

- 1 Step on R to R with bounce (ct 1); small hop on R as L moves twd R ankle with bounce (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L to L with bounce (ct 1); step on R next to L with bounce (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L to L with bounce (ct 1); small hop on L as R moves twd L ankle with bounce (ct 2).
- 4 Step on R to R (ct 1); small hop on R (ct 2); close L to R (ct &). (SQQ)
M: On ct &, M *only* step L behind R instead of closing.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all), except on last step, step L bkwd in preparation for next step. (L-close-L-hop, R-hop-L, R-hop; repeat)

Šokačko kolo—continued

II. STAMPING IN AND OUT (Face ctr)

- 1 Moving twd ctr, step-hop R across L, hips turning to face L of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 2 Step-hop on L across R, hips twisting to face R of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 3 Stamp R across L with wt, hips twisting to face L of ctr (ct 1); step on L back to place, facing ctr (ct &2).
- 4 Moving bkwd, stamp-hop R behind L (reel), hips twisting to face R of ctr (ct 1-2).
- 5 Stamp L behind R with wt, twisting to face L of ctr (ct 1); stamp R across L with wt, turning to face R of ctr (ct &2).
- 6 Moving twd ctr, stamp-hop L across R, twisting to face R of ctr (cts 1-2).
- 7 Stamp R across L with wt, twisting to face L of ctr (ct 1); stamp L behind R with wt (reel), facing ctr (ct &2).
- 8 Moving bkwd 2 light running steps R, L (cts 1-2).
Rhythm cue: SS QS S QS S QS QQ

III. CIRCLE L WITH STAMPS

- 1-2 Facing L of ctr and moving CW (RLOD), step-hop on R, step-hop on L (cts 1-2, 1-2).
- 3 Stamp R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1, &2). Stamps are on the full ft with wt.
- 4 Stamp-hop on R (with wt) fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2).
- 5 Stamp L-R fwd in RLOD (cts 1, &2). Stamps are on the full ft with wt.
- 6 Stamp-hop on L (with wt) fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2).
- 7 Stamp R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1, &2). Stamps are on the full ft with wt.
- 8 Step R-L fwd in RLOD (cts 1-2).
Rhythm cue: SS QS S QS S QS QQ - Same rhythm pattern as Fig II.

IV. CIRCLE L, slow music (Vocal)

- 1-2 Intro to slow music, hold in place.
- 3-4 Facing ctr with ft slightly apart, sway sdwd, R then L (cts 1-2, 1-2).
- 5 Facing L of ctr, step on R across L in twd ctr (ct 1-2). (S)
- 6 Step on L bkwd out of circle to diag L (cts 1-2). (S)
- 7-8 Repeat meas 5-6. (R x L, L to back)
- 9-12 Moving CW (L), do an 8-step grapevine, beg R across L (1 step per ct).

SEQUENCE:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Part I - Drmeš | Part III - Circle L with stamps |
| Part II - Stamping in & out | Part II - Stamping in & out |
| Repeat Part I-II | Part IV - Circle L (slow music- vocal) – except for last repetition |

Repeat dance from beg. Dance is done a total of 3 times.

Presented by Željko Jergan

ŠOKAČKO KOLO Lyrics

Ej, milo mi je i po volji mi je,
 Kad se draga na mene nasmije,
 Ej, kad se draga ne mene nasmij(e)!

Hey, it feels good and makes me happy
 When my sweetheart is smiling at me!

Aj, curo moja, moje janje milo
 Tebi dajem i dušu i tilo
 Ej, tebi dajem i dušu i til(o)!

Hey, my dear girlfriend and sweet little lamb
 I'm giving you my soul and my body!

