

# JOTA DE BADAJOZ

## Spain

Jota is danced throughout Spain with an infinite number of regional variations. This version is from the city of Badajoz in Estremadura in western Spain on the Portuguese border. Many of the Conquistadors came from this dry, impoverished region. May be danced solo or as couples or by two women. Posture is erect with arms forward and rounded with palms down; castanets were usually used.

**RHYTHM:** 3 / 4

**STRUCTURE:** Four 'coplas' are noted here. Each copla consists of three figures, noted A, B, C. A and C are always the same; B is the jota with variations. Each figure consists of four phrases of four measures each and is repeated four times.

**STEPS/STYLE: Jota Step:** Jump in place on both ft with knees flexed, feet together (c 1); straighten knees and begin to lift body (c 2); leap slightly backward on L ft, falling away from R ft (c 3); step on R ft behind L ft (c 4); step L on L ft (c 5); step in front of L ft on R ft (c 6). Repeat in opposite direction and footwork.

### Meas            Figure

#### A – Introduction

W lead M into the dance floor; M follows W at her L side with his R arm raised behind her shoulders. W may also choose to face M with L hips adjacent; partners will circle CCW around each other.

- 1            Pas de Basque: Leap R fwd diag on R ft (c 1); step fwd on L heel (c 2); step in place on R ft (c 3).
- 2            Repeat Pas de Basque to L on opposite footwork, moving L fwd diag.
- 3            Step fwd on R ft (c 1); lift L knee fwd (c 2); hop on R ft (c 3).
- 4            Step LRL in place.
- 5-12        Repeat Figure A two more times.
- 13,14      Repeat Pas de Basque step.
- 15           Spin: Turn 1/4 turn R and step fwd on R ft, flexing body low L (c 1); pivot 3/4 turn CW on ball of R ft, with L ft close to R ankle, L arm sweeping down and up to finish facing partner (c 2,3).
- 16           Step in place on L ft (c 1); stamp R ft slightly fwd (c 2); hold (c 3).

#### C – Closing

Couples are R shoulders adjacent dancing CCW backward around each other, looking at partner over R shoulder. Step is flat-footed running waltz.

- 1 Step RLR in place turning 1/4 turn L, flex body to R and sweep R arm low (c 1-3).
- 2 Step LRL in place and lift body erect (c 1-3). End with upper R arms behind each other.
- 3-5 Step three running waltz steps bkwd around partner.
- 6 Step away from partner on L ft (c 1); step RL in place (c 2,3).
- 7,8 Repeat Spin to R as in Figure A. W may either finish facing partner or with back to M to lead to another location.

### **B – Jota Variations**

Each variation combines the 'jota' step with another figure. They are notated here in order of difficulty, though each couple or solo dancer may dance them in any order.

#### **Scissors**

- 1 Leap in place on R ft and extend L leg fwd low (c 1); hold (c 2); 'scissor' legs by leaping in place on L ft and extending R leg fwd low (c 3). Do not bounce up and down.
- 2 Repeat movement of Meas 1.
- 3,4 Dance Jota step, moving to L.
- 5-8 Repeat movement of Meas 1-4 on opposite footwork.
- 9-16 Repeat movement of Meas 1-8.

#### **Toe-Heel**

- 1,2 Turn R knee in and touch R toe R fwd diag (c 1); turn R leg outward and touch R heel in the same place (c 2); repeat movement of Cts 1,2 (c 3,4) ; leave R knee turned out and touch R toe (c 5); touch R heel in place (c 6).
- 3-4 Dance Jota step moving to L.
- 5-8 Repeat movement of Meas 1-4 on opposite footwork.
- 9-16 Repeat movement of Meas 1-8.

#### **Cabriole (Heel Beats)**

Partners will move around each other CCW in a diamond-shaped figure. There is no Jota step in this variation.

- 1 Step on R ft across in front of L ft (c 1); swing L leg to L and hop on R ft, touching R heel to L heel in the air (c 2); land on R ft with R leg turned out (c 3).
- 2 Repeat movement of Meas 1 on opposite footwork.

- 3,4 Moving R fwd diag, step RLR, turning 1/4 turn CW (c 1-3); continue turning another 1/4 turn CCW, step bkwd LRL (c 4-6). Finish facing partner. L arm sweeps down and up.
- 5-16 Repeat movement of Meas 3,4 three more times, moving 1/4 way around diamond-shaped space each time to return to original place.

### **Combination Jota**

This figure combines elements other figures.

- 1,2 Dance Jota step, moving to L (c 1-6).
- 3 Turn 1/4 turn CCW and step L fwd diag on L ft, flexing body to R (c 1); spin 1/2 turn CW on ball of L ft and straighten body, finish with R leg extended fwd low (c 2,3).
- 4 Dance 'scissors/ step RLR in place, extending free leg fwd low (c 1-3). Step will be facing R fwd diag to partner.
- 5-8 Repeat movement of Meas 1-4 on opposite footwork, turning 1/4 turn L on beginning of Jota step.
- 9-16 Repeat movement of Meas 5-8.

NOTE: Dance Figures A-B-C four times, changing Fig B each time. After fourth repeat, dance Figure A one more time.

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