

SKOPSKO CIGANSKO  
(Macedonia)

This dance is from the region of Skopje. Skopsko means "from Skopje," and Cigansko means "Gypsy." It is from the Tropana and Sutka districts. Sutka is a new area where the gypsy people relocated from the 1963 earthquake. Skopsko Cigansko can be seen all around the Skopje area today. It is such a basic dance that it might be considered like a national dance, and is probably the most well-known dance among the gypsies. It is danced at every opportunity -- weddings, holy day celebrations, Slavas, national holidays, etc., and all during the week of Dzurodzovn -- the Spring Gypsy celebration of St. George -- you will see this dance being done. Although you will see small variations from these instructions, it is simple enough that travelers to Macedonia would be able to dance it when they are able to attend such a celebration in the Skopje area.

The music has an oriental rhythm in either 2/4 or 4/4 meter with erotic movements of the shoulders and hips. This is done free style, according to the individual's wishes. The music is recorded by a Gypsy orchestra. Pronunciation: SKOHP-skoh TSEE-gahn-sko

Record: Songs and Dances of Yugoslavia, AK-007, Side B/6.  
4/4 meter.

Formation: Lines with hands joined in "W" pos.

Style: Steps are flat footed. Dance with flexible knees.  
Motion from hips and knees.

Meas

Pattern

STEP I.

- 1 Facing RLOD and moving diag bkwd, step on R bkwd with partial wt (ct 1); place full wt on R (ct 2); repeat action with opp ftwk (cts 3,4).
- 2 Touch R toe (ct 1); step on R, face ctr (ct 2); step L,R (cts 3,4).
- 3 Lift on R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct 2); step R behind L (ct 3); step L (ct 4).

Variation:

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2.
- 3 Lift on R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct &); hold (ct 2); step R behind L with emphasis (ct 3); step L (ct 4).

STEP II.

- 1 Facing and moving LOD, touch R toe across L (ct 1); step on R (ct 2); touch L toe across R (ct 3); step L (ct 4).
- 2 Touch R toe across L (ct 1); step on R (ct 2); step L across R (ct 3); step R in place (ct 4).

SKOPSKO CIGANSKO (continued)

- 3 Lift on R (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R behind L (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 4 Step L in front of R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on R (ct 3); step L across R (ct 4).

Variations:No. 1: Double step on meas 1-2.

- 1 Step R across L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step on R (ct 2); step L across R (ct 3); step R in place (ct &); step on L (ct 4).
- 2 Step R across L (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step on R (ct 2); step L across R (ct 3); step R in place (ct 4).

No. 2. Turn CW on meas 3-4.

- 3 Hop on R (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3); hold (ct 4).
- 4 Step on L turning CW 180° (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on R turning CW 180° (ct 3); step L (ct 4).

Presented by Atanas Kolarovski