

SAKUTING
(Philippines)

Sakuting (sah-koo-TING) was discovered among the Christian Filipinos in Abra province on the island of Luzon. It is a percussive mock fight dance where performers hold one stick in each hand with which they produce rhythmic effects in time to music Chinese in influence.

It is customary in the Ilocos region at Christmas time to dance this in front of homes and in the town plaza. Groups of boys and young men go to the lowlands to perform from house to house for which they receive gifts of money, drinks, fruits, and typical Filipino delicacies especially prepared for the Christmas season. Traditionally, this dance used to be done by M only. Nowadays, it is more commonly performed by M and W.

Costume: W wears balintawak. M wears barong tagalog or camisa de chino and trousers of any color. Each dancer holds two sticks (one in each hand) about 1-1/2 ft long, 5/8 inch in diameter.

Music: Records: Mico Records, MX-536 (45 rpm). or Villar Records, Philippine Folk Dances, MLP-5000, side 1, band 7
2/4 and 3/4 meter.
Piano: Francisca Reyes Tolentino, Philippine National Dances, Silver Burdett Co., New York, 1946

Formation: A set of four cpls with ptrs standing opp each other about four ft apart. However, in this version, a set of two cpls is found to work more effectively. Dancers stand alternately in a set. See diagram:

Cpl 1	X	O
Cpl 2	O	X

Steps: Change step: (one to a meas): Step R fwd (ct 1); close L to R (ct &); step R again fwd (ct 2); hold (ct &).
Note: When hitting own sticks, it is always R over L, and L over R alternately.
Waltz (Native Waltz): Step fwd on L (ct 1); step R near L (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3). Step alternates. (This is similar to an ordinary two-step.)

MeasPattern

2/4 meter

1-2 INTRODUCTION.

SAKUTING (continued)ENTRANCE.

- 3-16 Begin R, march fwd to proper places. Hold R hand in front with R elbow bent; L hand placed at back of waist. One step for each ct. Face ptr on last meas.

FIGURE I. Weaving In and Out. (Ptrs facing.)

- 1-8 Cpl one weaves in and out of cpl 2: Leap fwd R (ct 1); close L to R (ct &); step R fwd (ct 2). This is like a Change Step except for the leap on the first ct. Meanwhile, cpl 2 does the following steps in place: Cut L fwd with R (ct 1); step L in place (ct &); step R close to L (ct 2). Hit sticks together in the following manner: hit sticks in front (R over L) (ct 1); hit again (L over R) (ct &); R over L (ct 2). Repeat hitting sticks alternately L over R, R over L, etc.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, with cpl 2 dancing action performed by cpl 1, and cpl 1 doing action previously danced by cpl 2.

3/4 meter

FIGURE II. Basic Step. (Ptrs facing.)

- 1 Dancers bend down and hit sticks on floor (ct 1); rise and strike sticks in front (waist level) R over L (ct 2); L over R (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, Fig. II.
- 3 One Native Waltz step sdwd R. Strike own sticks sdwd R, twice, strike in front once.
- 4 Repeat action of meas 3, Fig. II, in opp direction, striking sticks L over R.
- 5 With a spring, step R obliquely fwd R and place L heel in front. Ptrs are in one line by L shldrs. Strike ptr's L stick with own (ct 1); strike own sticks twice, R over L, L over R (cts 2,3).
- 6 Spring and step L obliquely fwd L and quickly close R to L. Ptrs are in back to back pos. At the same time, hit ptr's stick (W R with M L; W L with M R). The M's knuckles are in front and W's are behind (ct 1); hit own sticks together twice, R over L, L over R (cts 2,3).
- 7 Spring and step R bkwd and place L heel in front bringing ptrs side by side as in meas 5, Fig. II. Hit sticks as in meas 5, Fig. II.
- 8 One Native Waltz step bkwd L to original places. Hit own sticks together three times, R over L, L over R, R over L.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. II with opp ftwk and standing by R shldrs in meas 13.

FIGURE III. Under Leg. (Ptrs facing.)

- 1-2 Beginning R, two Native Waltz steps obliquely fwd R. Ptrs stand in one line by L shldrs at end of second waltz. Strike own sticks together three times to a meas.

SAKUTING (continued)

- 3 M: Raise R leg fwd, strike own sticks once under leg (ct 1); lower leg and strike own sticks together in front at about waist level (cts 2,3), R over L, L over R.
W: Bend and strike own sticks together slightly off the floor close to R ft (ct 1); rise and strike own sticks together in front at about waist level (cts 2,3), R over L, L over R.
- 4 Strike L stick once with L of ptr (ct 1); own sticks twice (cts 2,3), L over R, R over L.
- 5 Repeat action of meas 3, Fig. III with opp ftwk.
- 6 Repeat action of meas 4, Fig. III.
- 7-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Fig. III, moving bkwd to original places.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. III, beginning L. Ptrs stand by R shldr. Strike sticks under L leg and strike R sticks with R sticks of ptr.

FIGURE IV. Silent.

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1, Fig. II. Begin R, take one small step fwd on ct 1 of each meas. Ptrs end near each other.
- 3 Hold own sticks together with R and L parallel to each other. One Native Waltz step sdwd R. Swing own sticks together from R side and strike ptr's sticks together (ct 1); strike own sticks together twice, R over L, L over R (cts 2,3).
- 4 One Native Waltz step sdwd L. Swing own sticks from L and strike ptr's sticks together (ct 1); strike own sticks together twice (cts 2,3).
- 5 With spring, step R obliquely fwd R placing L heel in front. Ptrs are in one line standing by L shldr. Bend fwd slightly and open arms at sides without striking sticks (Silent, ct 1); strike own sticks together twice, trunk erect (cts 2,3).
- 6-8 Repeat action of meas 6-8, Fig. II. No strikes on ct 1.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. IV, beginning L and standing by R shldr. Swing own sticks together from L in meas 11, and from R in meas 12.

FIGURE V. Right and Left Sticks.

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Fig. III.
- 3-4 Beginning R, one Native Waltz turn CW (two waltz steps), moving obliquely fwd, ptrs finish facing in a single line at ctr. Strike own sticks three times to a meas while doing the turn.
- 5 Strike R sticks once with ptr (ct 1); strike own sticks together twice (cts 2,3), L over R, R over L.
- 6 Strike L sticks once with ptr (ct 1); strike own sticks together twice (cts 2,3), R over L, L over R.
- 7-8 Two Native Waltz steps fwd (R, L) to ptr's place. Strike own sticks three times, R,L,R. Finish facing ptr.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Fig. V; finish in original places.

SAKUTING (continued)

2/4 meter

FIGURE VI. Combat.

Cpls 1 and 2 form a square. All face ctr of set.

- 1-2 W1 with W2: Two Change Steps fwd to ctr, beginning R, stand with R shldr turned to each other. Strike own sticks three times (cts 1,&,2) during each meas.
- 3-4 Strike R stick once with opp W (ct 1); strike own sticks twice (cts &,2). Repeat same movement (cts 1,&,2).
- 5-6 Turn L shldr to opp W. Repeat action of meas 3-4, Fig. VI striking with L stick of opp W (ct 1); strike own sticks twice (cts &,2).
- Note: W1 and W2 do Change Steps in place (R,L) as they hit each other's sticks.
- 7-8 Beginning R, two Change Steps bkwd to original places. Strike sticks as in meas 1-2, Fig. VI.
M: Beginning R, eight Change Steps in place hitting own sticks three times in each meas (cts 1,&,2) as ptrs dance in ctr of set.
- 9-16 M1 and M2 repeat action of W1 and W2, while they repeat action of M1 and M2 as done in meas 1-8, Fig. VI.
- 17-24 Neighbors Together: Neighbors face each other. M1 and W2, W1 and M2 repeat action of W1 and W2 in meas 1-8, Fig. VI.
- 25-32 Ptrs Together: Ptrs face each other: repeat action of W1 and W2 in meas 1-8, Fig. VI.

FIGURE VII. Floor, Waist, Overhead, Back. (All face ptrs.)

Strike own sticks three times (cts 1,&,2) throughout this figure except in meas 1.

- 1 Bend down and strike own sticks on floor three times (cts 1,&,2).
- 2 Raise trunk and strike own sticks together three times at waist level in front (R,L,R).
- 3 Raise sticks overhead and strike own sticks three times (R,L,R).
- 4 Place hands behind the waist and strike own sticks three times (R,L,R).
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4, Fig. VII three more times, four in all.
- 17-32 Turn R about. Facing away from ptr, repeat action of meas 1-16, Fig. VII.

3/4 meter

FIGURE VIII. (Circle formation.)Ftwk:

- 1-16 Face CW in a circle. Beginning R, 16 Native Waltz steps fwd in the circle.

SAKUTING (continued)Stick rhythm:

- Meas 1: Strike own sticks three times at R side (R over L, L over R, R over L).
 Meas 2: Repeat action of meas 1, Fig. VIII to L side.
 Meas 3: Strike own sticks together four times to R side (cts 1,&,2,3), (R,L,R,L).
 Meas 4: Repeat action of meas 3, Fig. VIII to L side
 Meas 5-16: Repeat action of meas 1-4, Fig. VIII, three more times to finish in original places.

FIGURE IX. Lyre.

- W stands facing close to ptr, holding sticks horizontally and parallel to each other. The R stick is at head level, the L is at the level of chest. M1 stands in front of W1, M2 in front of W2. M hits W's sticks as if playing lyre with both hands (R hand up, L hand low). W hold sticks firmly (cts 1,&,2,&,3).
- 1
- 2 W: Beginning R, take three-step turn CW in place. Sticks are held in the same pos.
M: Beginning R, three-step turn CW moving twd next W. M1 to W2, M2 to W1. Sticks are held crossed; R over L overhead.
- 3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2, (Fig. IX) three more times. M finishes last meas standing behind ptr.

EXIT.

- 1-12 With W1 leading, all exit taking 12 waltz steps, beginning R. Hit own sticks at the R and L side alternately.
- Chord

Note: Villar recording has 11 meas and a chord.

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