

Zhinka

(Russia)

Zhinka is an example of a Don Cossack dance in which the dancers (particularly the men) improvise with steps designed to show off their dancing ability. Research for Zhinka was done by Vladimir Pershin whose work was sponsored by the Barinya Foundation. Zhinka is in Cossack dialect and means "wife;" in standard Russian, the word is "zhena." This adaptation was made by Hennie Konings who introduced the dance in the Netherlands in 1993.

Pronunciation: ZHEEN-kah

Cassette: Konings – Stockton 1996

2/4 meter

Formation: Single circle of couples, partners facing. Hands are free at sides.

Steps and Each variation is based on 4 meas (8 cts).

Styling: **Basic Step:** Step on R in desired direction (ct 1); hit L heel near ball of R ft (ct &); step on R in desired direction (ct 2); hit R heel near ball of L ft (ct &). Repeat all twice (cts 3-6). In place, stamp R, L, R (cts 7,&,8). This basic step is repeated with opp ftwk, same direction (beg L).

Arms are free at sides. They may be out at about chest level with elbows slightly bent. Body sometimes tilts twd stepping ft.

During the entire dance, the circle moves CCW.

Meas

Pattern

8 meas

INTRODUCTION. No action.

I. FACING PARTNER

1-4 Facing ptr and moving in LOD, dance Basic Step, beg R.

5-8 Continuing, dance Basic Step, beg L. On the 3 stamps (L, R, L) turn 1/2 CCW to face neighbor. On the last step on L, hands may be clapped.

II. FACING NEIGHBOR

1--8 Facing neighbor and still moving in LOD, repeat Fig I. At the end the turn is still CCW.

Fig I and II can be danced until the end of the music or Variations can be danced. Usually a Variation is 4 meas long, so two are danced for each figure.

Sample Variation: This is usually danced during meas 5-8. Step on R in front of L (cts 1, &); step back onto L (ct 2); step on R near L (ct &); step on L in front of R (ct 3); step back onto R (ct &); step on L near R (ct 4); step on R beside L (ct &); step on L in front of R (cts 5, &); step back onto R (ct 6); step on L near R (ct &); step on R in front of L, starting to turn CCW (ct 7); step L, R, L (cts &, 8, &) to finish the 1/2 turn CCW.

Presented by Hennie Konings

Description by Ruth Ruling and Joyce Lissant Uggla