

RUMENKA
(Serbia)

- Source:** As learned by Larry Weiner in the villages near the town of Svrljig, east-central Serbia.
- Pronunciation:** ROO-men-kah
- Formation:** M and W in short lines, facing ctr, using either a belt hold, or M hands in own belt, W arms linked through, or all arms linked.
- Record:** "Village dances from Svrljig Jugoslavia," LW-1. 2/4 meter.
- Note:** This dance is typical of many dances found in this part of Serbia. They are characterized by their 10-meas dance patterns and very small flat-footed steps. Dancers often improvise and use their own variations, never interfering with others doing the basic pattern of the dance, and so the line always moves as a unit.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>ct</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
1	1	Step sdwd to R onto R ft.
	2	Step on L ft beside R ft.
2		Repeat action of meas 1.
3	1	Step sdwd to R onto R ft.
	2	Swing L ft slightly fwd to R and close to ground.
4	1	With knees stiff, step onto L ft in place.
	&	With knees stiff, step onto R ft in place.
	2	With knees bent, step onto L ft in place.
5		Repeat action of meas 4, but with opp ftwk.
6	1	Hop in place on R ft.
	&	Step slightly to L onto L ft.
	2	Step onto R ft beside L ft.
7		Repeat action of meas 6.
8-9		Repeat action of meas 4-5.
10		Repeat action of meas 4.

These 10 meas comprise the basic pattern of the dance. The variations I observed always replaced the first two meas of the dance and included, among others, the following patterns:

Two hop step-steps as in meas 6-7, but with opp ftwk and direction.

Two "three's" (RLR, LRL), moving CCW, crossing L ft in front of R ft on second set of "three's" and done in same style as meas 3-4.

Eight very quick small steps, side by side, moving to the R.

These are variations that any dancer may do at any time, rather than "figures" in which all dancers generally do the same steps simultaneously.

Presented by Larry Weiner