

# Baranja, Croatia

This dance is done in Slavonija, Baranja, and Bačka, although this variation is from Baranja, which is located between the Dunav river, and the lower part of the Drava river, in the Pannonian plains of Croatia. Although there are only a few dances from Baranja, the wealth of the dances lies in their variation and preservation until today. No festivity or celebration would be complete without dancing Šokačko kolo. This dance begins with the drmeš, which is interrupted by singing and walking in rhythm in the circle. This pattern is repeated over and over until the musicians, usually a tambura orchestra or bagpipe ("gajde") player in the center of the circle, stops playing.

*This dance was learned by Željko Jergan in 1989 from "Đakovački Vezovi," (Village group of Draž).*

**TRANSLATION:** Circle dance of the Šokac (shoh-KAHTS) people.

**PRONUNCIATION:** shoh-KAHCH-koh koh-loh

**CD:** "BAŠTINA HRVATSKOG SELA" by Otrovi, track #14

**CASSETTE:** "Croatian Folk Dances" by Jerry Grcevich, Vol. II, side B/1

**FORMATION:** Cpls (preferably) in a closed circle. M join hands behind W backs, W hands are on M shldr. If there is more W than M use either a back-basket hold or hold belts (R over L).

**STYLE:** Extremely rigid with vertical movements and sometimes with bent knees. As the kolo progresses, M improvise using any one of many variations, while W must do only the basic step.

**METER:** 2/4

## PATTERN

Meas.

**INTRODUCTION:** 8 chords

**PART I: DRMEŠ** (fast music)

**Style:** Steps are done on the balls of the ft, legs are somewhat stiff, while the steps are bouncy - bounces come from the ankles and dancing on the balls of the ft.

The steps to the L are larger than those to the R (the circle progresses sdwd L)

1 Step R to R (ct 1); small hop on R as L moves twd R ankle (ct 2).

2 Step L to L (ct 1); close R to L (ct 2).

3 Step L to L (ct 1); small hop on L as R moves twd L ankle (ct 2).

4 Step R to R (ct 1); small hop on R (ct 2); close L to R (ct &). (S,Q,Q)

M: On ct &, M ONLY step L behind R instead of closing.

5-16 Repeat meas 1-4, 3 more times (4 in all), except on last step, step L bkwd in prep for next step. (L-close-L-hop, R-hop-L, R-hop; repeat)

**PART II: STAMPING IN & OUT** (Face ctr)

1 Moving twd ctr - stamp-hop R across L - hips turns to face L of ctr (cts 1-2).

2 Stamp-hop L across R - hips turns to face R of ctr (cts 1-2).

3 Stamp R across L - hips turns to face L of ctr (ct 1); step L back to place - face ctr (ct 2).

4 Moving bkwd - stamp-hop R behind L (reel) - hips turns to face R of ctr (ct 1-2).



## **SOKACKO KOLO (page 2)**

### Variation 3

Meas. 1 – Step R in place (1), hop R (2), step L slightly to L (&), rest (3), step R in place (&), step L in place (4)

(Get your papers here rhythm).

Repeat as many times as desired.