

Koulouriotiko Palio Hasapiko

(Greece)

One of the most well-known dances of Greece today is the Hasapiko, also known as the Syrtaki. In its present form, developed in the 1960s and made popular by the multitude of tourists just discovering Greece, the Syrtaki is essentially a "light" and more "modern" version of the slow or "heavy" Hasapiko which developed in the port of Pireaus in the early 20th century. This Hasapiko was closely associated with a class of urban "criminal" types known as manges or koutsovakides from which the Rebetic music culture would develop. This dance as performed by the men of the island of Salamina popularly known as Koulouri, was famous throughout the Rebetic world. Hence the name Koulouriotiko Palio Hasapiko, meaning the "Old Hasapiko of Koulouri." The style is tight and coiled and geometrically complex. The Hasapiko as performed on Koulouri is based on the widespread Sta Tria dance pattern, whereas other older style versions are often based on a 7-count extended Sta tria. Unique to the Koulouriotiko, the faster tempo Hasapika here are performed with all the complex variations of the slow tempo Hasapiko described below.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Greek Dances 1992 #1

4/4 or 2/4 meter

Formation: Short lines of 2-3 people (originally just men) in shoulder hold.

Meas

Pattern

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L next to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step on R to R (ct 1); touch L near R (ct 2).
- 3 Step on L to L (ct 1); touch R near L (ct 2).

Note: Transition from the Introduction to the rest of the dance is to just perform meas 1 and 2 above and substitute meas 1 below for meas 3 above.

BASIC INTRODUCTION

- 1 Step fwd on L (ct 1); touch (scuff) R next to L (ct &); touch R fwd and slightly to R (ct 2).
- 2 Step back on R (ct 1); lift L up just in front of R (ct &); swing L slightly fwd (ct 2); swing L diag back to L (ct &).
- 3 Touch L in place (L of R)(ct 1); lift L in front of R (ct 2).

I. BASIC

- 1 Small leap on L to L (ct 1); step on R across in front of L (ct &); step back on L (ct 2); swing R up (ct &).
- 2 Step on R across and behind L (ct 1); lift L up just in front of R (ct &); swing L slightly fwd (ct 2); step on L to L (ct &).
- 3 Step on R slightly to R (ct 1); step on L just in front of R (ct &); drag R up to and behind L (ct 2); sharp hook L toward R (ct &).

Note: Transition into Basic—substitute meas 2, cts 2, & and entire meas 3 for equivalent of Basic Introduction.

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II. FOUR STEPS

- 1 Step fwd on L (ct 1); step back onto R (ct &); step fwd onto L (ct 2); swing R fwd (ct &).
- 2 Step on R next to L (ct 1); step back on L (ct &); step back on R (ct 2); step back on L (ct &).
- 3 Repeat Fig I, meas 3.

III. LEFT

- 1 Repeat Fig I, meas 1.
- 2 Step on R to L, crossing over L (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R to L (ct 2); step on L behind R (&).
- 3 Repeat Fig I, meas 3.

IV. CLOSE OPEN

- 1 Repeat Fig 1, meas 1.
- 2 Small step on R over L (ct 1); step back on L (ct &); step back on R (ct 2); swing L fwd in front of R (ct &).
- 3 Small step on L over R (ct 1); step back onto R (ct &); step back onto L (ct 2); lift R fwd (ct &).
- 4 Close step on R next to L (ct 1); heels together, pivot toes open (ct 2).
- 5 Pivot feet together (ct 1); touch step on R diag fwd R(ct 2).
- 6 Step on R over L (ct 1); step on L over R (ct 2).
- 7 Repeat meas 4.
- 8 Pivot feet together (ct 1); step on R diag fwd to R, slightly bend knees (ct 2); rock back onto L (ct &).
- 9-10 Repeat Fig I, meas 2-3.

V. SCUFF SEQUENCE

- A
- 1 Step fwd on L (ct 1); scuff stamp R next to L (ct &); swing R fwd (ct 2).
 - 2-3 Repeat Fig I, meas 2-3.
- B
- 1 Repeat A, meas 1.
 - 2 Bending down from the L knee, swing R in front of L ankle (ct 1); straightening, swing R slightly fwd and around (ct &); swing R back (ct 2).
 - 3-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 2-3.
- C
- 1 Repeat A, meas 1.
 - 2 Step on R over L (ct 1); swing L over in front of R(ct 2).
 - 3 Step on L in front of R (ct 1); swing R over in front of L (ct 2).
 - 4-5 Repeat Fig I, meas 2-3.

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VI. STAMPS

- 1 Step on L in place (or just slightly fwd)(ct 1); scuff stamp R next to L (ct &); swing R fwd (ct 2).
- 2 Stamp R in place (with wt)(ct 1); stamp L next to R (with wt)(ct &); stamp R in place (with wt)(ct ah); stamp L in place (with wt)(ct 2).
- 3 Stamp R in place (with wt)(ct 1); swing L fwd (ct 2).

VII. JUMPS

- A 1 Leap onto L in place, bending at knee with R extended back (ct 1); hop onto L in place (ct 2).
 - 2 Leap onto R over in front of L (ct 1); swing L out fwd (ct 2); close step on L next to R, displacing R (ct &).
 - 3 Step on R next to or in front of L (ct 1); swing L close to and in front of R (ct 2).
- B 1 Repeat A, meas 1.
 - 2 Step on R over in front of L (ct 1); swing L to L behind R (ct &); swing L toward R (ct 2); step on L near R (ct &).
 - 3 Step on R diag back to R, knees bent (ct 1); hop on R in place, straightening (ct 2); swing L up or towards R (ct &).

Sequence: After the Introduction and two Basic patterns, the actual sequence and number of times each is done depends on the “leader”, though more often than not, the dance is sequenced as described above, perhaps minus one or two variations.

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