

KRITIKÓS SYRTÓS (SYRTÓS HANIÓTIKOS)
(Greece)


Source: This is a "syrtós" dance from the island of Kriti (Crete), and it is done all over Kriti. It is sometimes called the "Syrtós Haniótikos" after the city of Haniá where it is most popular. This is the main Cretan dance.

Bibliography: Elliniki Hori, V. Papahristos, (Athens, 1960).
Greek Folk Dances, M. Vouras & R. Holden, (N.J., 1965)
Folk Dances of the Greeks, T. & E. Petrides, (N.Y., 1961)


Music: 2/4 time
Any good Kritikós Syrtós music can be used.
Demotiko - Discphon LPM-5.

Formation: M and W in a line with hands joined at shoulder height, elbows bent and down.

Characteristics: The steps are usually quick and small, and in general, the feeling is happy. The styling depends on the tempo of the music and where the dancer is from. The leader can do variations: turns, slaps, or step variations. He can do variations of his own, but it is not usual for everyone in the line to do them too. Although there are certain simple variations which I have seen the whole line do, it is not the case that the fancy variations are done by everyone at once. For exhibition purposes, perhaps, one can have everyone in a line doing lots of fancy steps, but as a folk or ethnic dance of the Cretans, only the leader does different steps from the few basic steps which all can do at once. It is NOT an ethnic characteristic of this dance to have everyone do several complicated step variations -- the step variations for the whole line are simple in nature. If the second man in a line knows the leader's variations, he might do them too, but this is the exception and not the rule.

The pattern of the rhythm is "slow, quick, quick," or "long, short, short." Throughout the dance, the movement follows this beat. 

KRITIKOS SYRTOS (SYRTOS HANIOTIKOS) (continued)

<u>Meas</u>	<u>cts</u>	2/4 time	
I	1	Wt is on R ft, touch L toe slightly fwd (small movement).	
	2	Step on L ft in back of R.	
	&	Step to R on R ft.	
II	1	Step on L ft across in front of R.	
	2	Step to R on R ft (leaving L ft over spot where it stood).	
	&	Step on L ft in place.	
III	1	Step on R ft across in front of L (facing L), (leaving L ft over place where it stood).	
	2	Step back in place on L ft.	
	&	Step sdwd to R on R ft.	
IV	1	Step on L ft across in front of R.	
	2	Touch R ft next to L ft.	
	&	Step on R ft next to L.	

VARIATIONS

Meas I, II, IV are same as before.

III	1	Step on R ft across in front of L.	
	&	Hop on R ft.	
	2	Step back in place on L ft.	
	&	Leap sdwd to R on R ft.	
<u>(Straight Line Variation)</u>			
I	1	Touch L toe slightly fwd.	
	2	Step across on L ft in front of R.	
	&	Moving and facing LOD, step on R ft.	
II	1	Step to LOD on L ft.	
	2	Step on R ft.	
	&	Step on L ft.	
III	1	Step to LOD on R ft.	
	2	Step on L ft.	
	&	Step on R ft.	
IV	1	Step on L ft facing fwd.	
	2	Touch R ft next to L.	
	&	Step on R ft next to L.	

KRITIKÓS SYRTÓS (SYRTÓS HANIÓTIKOS) (continued)

- (Triangle Variation)
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|-----|---|---|
| I | 1 | Touch L toe slightly fwd. |
| | 2 | Step on L ft diag fwd R. |
| | & | Step on R ft diag fwd R. |
| II | 1 | Step on L ft diag fwd R. |
| | 2 | Step to L on R ft across in front of L. |
| | & | Step to L on L ft. |
| III | 1 | Step to L on R ft across in front of L. |
| | 2 | Step on L ft diag bkwd R. |
| | & | Step on R ft diag bkwd R. |
| IV | 1 | Step on L ft diag bkwd R. |
| | 2 | Touch R ft next to L. |
| | & | Step on R ft next to L. |

Presented by John Pappas