

SICILIAN TARANTELLA

(Italian)

Legend tells that the Tarantella with its wild turns was done to relieve the maddening pain of the tarantula's sting. Encyclopedia Britannica states more correctly that this dance derives its name from the Italian city of Taranto, in Apulia.

There are numerous versions of the Tarantella. The one listed below is as done by a majority of Federation groups. Using Mary Hinman's version as basis, Barbara Hirschfield began to teach the dance to the Berkeley Folk Dancers. When she was called away, the remainder of the arrangement was completed by Constance Moncharsh. The steps were arranged in order to fit the specific record.

MUSIC: Records: Victor 25 - 0043-A, "Sicilian Tarantella"
Victor 20-3189-A, Sicilian Tarantella"
Festival 3601, Victor 420-0208, Folkraft 1173
Piano: Hinman, Mary: "Gymnastic and Folk Dancing" Vol. IV.

FORMATION: Sets of four, cpl 1 in front of cpl 2, all facing music. Carry tambourine.

STEPS AND STYLING: Step-hop*, Chasse (slide)*, Heel and Toe*, Hop*, Skip*, Buzz Turn*
Change Step: Leap on R ft at the same time kicking L ft straight forward (ct 1); quickly change ft kicking R ft fwd (ct 2) and so on. Strike tambourine directly in front once for each count.
Music in 6/8 or 2/4 time. Count 2 beats to a measure.

MUSIC (6/8 or 2/4)	PATTERN
Measures	INTRODUCTION
A 1-4	Stand, hands straight up, shaking tambourine.
I.	<u>STEP-HOP-SWING AND CHANGE STEP</u>
5	Step R, swing L ft fwd and across and hop on R.
6	Repeat, stepping L.
7-8	4 change steps starting R.
1-8	Repeat step-hop-swing and change sequence twice more.
(Repeat)	
II.	<u>HOPPING TO SIDE</u>
B 1-2	With wt on L ft, lift P knee high to the side (keeping R ft close to L knee), keep it up and hop 4 times twd R. R hand on hip, tambourine in L overhead.
3-4	Stamp on R, turn R 4 counts, using buzz step. L hand on hip. R hand stretched low to P holds tambourine.
5-8	Repeat hops and turn to L.
1-8	Repeat whole sequence to R, then L.
(Repeat)	
III.	<u>SQUARE</u>
C 1-2	All face out from corner. Both hands overhead.
3-4	Slide R (CW) 4 slides to next person's place.
5-8	Stop at new corner to do 4 change steps, starting R ft.
1-8	Repeat all until each person has returned to original place.
(Repeat)	
IV.	<u>SKIP ACROSS</u>
D 1-2	Ptrs face, both arms raised.
3-4	Skip 4 to ptr!5 place, passing R shoulders
	Stop to do 4 change steps in place.

SICILIAN TARANTELLA (Continued)

- 5-6 Skip bwd passing R shoulders to original places.
7-8 Do 4 change steps.
1-8 Repeat whole sequence.
(Repeat)
- V. MATCHING FINGERS
M kneel on L knee facing ptr while W stands. Both have L hands on hip.
E 1 Both slap R knee (ct 1), then raise 1 finger (ct 2).
2-4 Repeat 3 times, raising different numbers of fingers each time.
5-8 W start R, 4 two-steps around M (CW), returning to place.
1-8 Repeat whole sequence.
(Repeat)
- VI. BACK TO BACK
M rise. Ptrs stand back to back with R shoulders touching, arms overhead
F 1 Tap L toe across P, return L ft to place.
2 Tap R across L, return to place.
3-4 Turn R with 4 short buzz steps, remaining back to back, making 1/4 turn CW.
5-8 Repeat 3 more times in all - to end in own place.
1-8
(Repeat)
- VII. HEEL AND TOE
In original pos, all progress to R.
B 1-4 Hopping on L ft, moving to R, touch K heel (ct 1), toe (ct 2) alternately on floor. Continue for 8 cts. L hand holds tambourine, R on hip.
5-8 Stamp R and turn R with 8 buzz steps. L hand on hips, R stretched to side with tambourine.
1-8 Repeat whole sequence to L.
(Repeat)
- VIII. FACE PARTNERS - HEEL AND TOE
Partners face.
C 1 Hop on L ft, extending R heel swd (ct 1), tap K toe in front of L (ct 2).
Tambourine in L hand.
2 Repeat above step hopping R, extending L heel and toe. Tambourine changed to K hand.
3-4 Ptrs stand with R hips together, K hands around ptrs waist, L hand raised high. Hop 4 on R ft turning once CW with ptr in place.
5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 starting with hop on R, and turning CCW with 4 hops on L ft.
1-8 Repeat whole sequence.
(Repeat)
- IX. SQUARE
D 1-8 Repeat square as in Fig III.
1-8
- X. DIAGONAL CROSS
E 1-2 W1 and M2 skip 4 to exchange places, passing R shoulders. Hands high overhead.
Simultaneously W2 and M1 do 4 change steps in place.
3-4 W2 and M1 exchange places.
W1 and M2 do change steps in place.
5-6 W1 and M2 skip 4 backward steps to own places.
W2 and M1 do change steps in place.
7-8 W2 and M1 skip backward to original places.
W1 and M2 do change steps.
1-8 Repeat whole sequence.
(Repeat)

SICILIAN TARANTELLA (Concluded)

- XI. STAR
Form star with K hands to ctr, tambourine raised in L hand.
- G 1-4 Hop 8 on R ft, moving fwd.
5-8 Break star, stamp L and turn L away from square with 8 buzz steps,
R hand on hip and tambourine stretched out in L.
1-8 Repeat starting with L hand star and turning to R.
(Repeat)
- XII. STEP-HOP-SWING AND CHANGE STEP
H 1-8 Repeat step-hop-swing and 4 change steps (Fig I meas 5-8) twice starting to K.
- XIII. TURNANDPOSE
J 1-8 R hand overhead, step to R and buzz 16 cts ending in pose with M K hand around W waist; W L hand on her hip; both outside hands with tambourines raised.

References: Hinman, Mary: "Gymnastic and Folk Dancing," Vol. IV