

INDIAN HARVEST DANCE  
(American Indian)

This ritual harvest dance is done by the Pima Indian women of the Papago Nation. The men participate by beating the drums. It is performed as a prayer for good crops to grow along the banks of the river. Research for this dance was done by Anatol Joukowski in the area northeast of Tucson, Arizona in 1970.

**Formation:** Single file of 8 - 16 W facing CCW. See diagram at end of description.

**Music:** Drum beats provide the music. Part I is danced to a Loud, Soft (cts 1,2) beat. Part II uses a beat with an even sound.

PART I

Basic Step I. Step fwd on whole R ft, bending knees (loud beat). Step L beside R, straighten knees (soft beat). Step repeats exactly.

Hands: Hands are held at R side about hip level, palms down and parallel to floor, thumbs adjacent. Lower and raise hands a little twice (4 beats, L,S,L,S). This gesture could denote the right bank of the river. Repeat gesture at L side, denoting the left bank of the river (4 beats). Quickly raise hands above head level, thumbs still adjacent and palms fwd. Slowly lower hands to below waist in front of body (8 beats in all). This last 8 beats of hand movement are a beseeching for a blessing.

Using Basic Step I and hand movement, Leader lead line into a CCW circle. Continue until circle is well formed. Leader join hands with neighbors. At this signal all dancers join hands and face ctr. Music now changes to an even-toned beat.

PART II

Basic Step II. Facing ctr, step to R side on R flexing knees (ct 1). Body tilts a little to R side, Straightening body, step L next to R flexing knees (ct 2). Repeat action (cts 3,4). Raise and lower heels (ct 5). Repeat action of cts 1-4 again (cts 6-9). Step to R side on R flexing knees (ct 10). In strid pos raise and lower heels (ct 11). Step L next to R (ct 12).

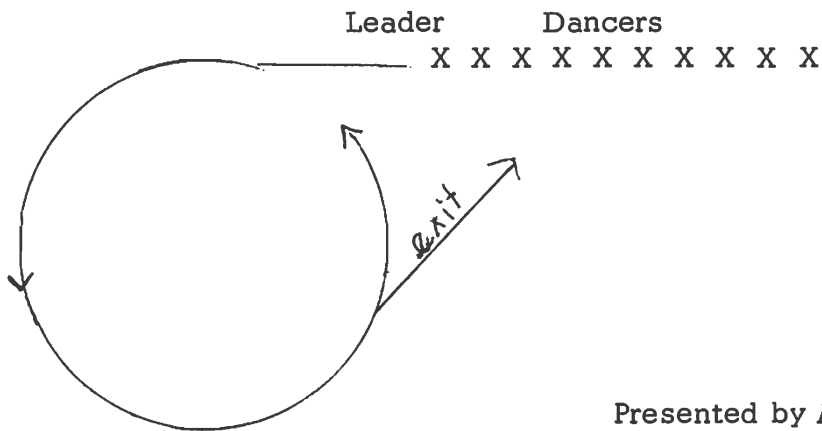
Above basic pattern is done as many times as leader desires. Usually it is done until circle has moved twice around.

## INDIAN HARVEST DANCE (continued)

Interlude: Occurs at least twice during the circling. Leader starts the action. All slowly raise joined hands high in a supplicative gesture and then slowly lower them. Takes about 12 beats of drum. During this time, the drum beats become louder. Basic Step II is still done.

PART III

Drum beats, steps, and hand motion same as Part I. After circle has revolved at least twice, the Leader leads the line away from dancing area. See diagram.



Presented by Anatol Joukowsky  
Notes by Ruth Ruling