

KOUTSÓS HORÓS  
(Orestiadha, Evros County, Thrace, Greece)

The Koutsós Horós, meaning "limping", is typically Thracian in its brisk tempo and characteristic arm movements. It is one of the few dances from Greek Thrace in 7/8 meter which is a line dance, the more typical formation being an improvised face to face couple dance i.e., Mandilátos or Syngathistós. Source is as performed by dancers from Kryós village. The third section with its extended measures is a performance choreography.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Greek Dance Sum'88 7/8 meter

Meter: 7/8: 2-2-3 Q Q S. Counted as 1,2,3

Formation: Open circle, traditionally M at front, W at end of line.  
Arms (see below) start in down "V" pos.

Suggested Sequence (to music): I 3x, II 3x, III 2x,  
I 3x, II 3x III 3x, I 1x

Meas

Pattern

I. BASIC (Koutso)

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, moving somewhat diag into ctr of circle; wt on L ft, slight hop on L, raising low and moving R fwd LOD (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); step L fwd in front of R (ct 3).
  - 2 Repeat meas 1.
  - 3 Turning to face ctr of circle (or slightly L of ctr), step R to R (ct 1); hold, with slight bounce (ct 2); lift L up and slightly behind (ct 3).
  - 4 Step L back (ct 1); hold, with slight bounce (ct 2) lift R up and slightly behind (ct 3).
  - 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk.
  - 6 Repeat meas 4 with same ftwk, facing slightly R of ctr on ct 3.
- ARMS: Meas 1-2: From "V" pos, swing back (ct 1); swing fwd (ct 2); swing back to alignment with body (ct 3).  
Meas 3: Arms swing back (ct 1); swing fwd, bending at elbow (ct 2); complete swing up to open "W" pos. Arms are held there until ct 3 of meas 6.

II. RUNNING STEPS (Trecháta)

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, moving somewhat diag into ctr of circle, arms in open "W" hold: Step R fwd LOD (ct 1); close L slightly behind R (ct 2); step R fwd (ct 3).
- 2 Step L fwd (ct 1); close R slightly behind L (ct 2); step L fwd, arms swing abruptly fwd and down (ct 3).
- 3 Turning to face ctr of circle (or slightly L of ctr), step R to R, swinging arms back (ct 1); hold, with slight bounce on R, swinging arms fwd (ct 2); raise L up and slightly behind, arms swing up and fwd (ct 3).

KOUTSÓS HORÓS (Cont'd)

4-6 Repeat Fig I, meas 4-6, arms held in "W" pos.

III. SQUATS AND STAMPS (Paties')

- 1 Facing slightly R of ctr, moving diag into ctr of circle, arms in open "W" pos: Step R fwd LOD (ct 1); hold, with slight bounce (ct 2); hop on R (small movement fwd), swinging L up and fwd (ct 3).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Turning to face ctr of circle, step R to R (ct 1); hopping off R, kick L ft out and up (ct 2); leap onto L in place, begin to squat (ct 3).
- 4 Shift wt onto R in squat pos (ct 1); hold (ct 2); slight hop from R, kick L slightly out (ct 3).
- 5 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk.
- 6 Repeat meas 4, rise from squat on ct 3.
- 7 Stamp L in place (fwd of R) (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stamp R back in place (ct 3).
- 8 Step L back (ct 1); hold with slight bounce (ct 2); lift R up and slightly back (ct 3).
- 9 Repeat meas 8 with opp ftwk.
- 10 Repeat meas 8, pivot to face R of ctr on ct 3.

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi