

EL CABALLITO (el cah-bah-LEE-toh)
(Son from Jalisco, Mexico)

Source: Traditional from the state of Jalisco. First taught in the school system in Guadalajara by Miss Cuca.

Music: 6/8 rhythm, Musart ED 875, band 10, side 2.

Formation and Style: A line of cpls facing each other. The choreography pantomimes the elopement of a young cpl on horseback. The W carries a Rebozo (long shawl) which she holds behind her back with an end in each hand in the first part of the dance, and which becomes the horse in Part IV. In Part VIII, she falls from the horse, the M tames it, she remounts, and they ride off. The M carries a bandana in his R hd which he swings freely as a whip or lasso.

MeasPattern

- PART I -- Caballito (Little Horse Step)
- 1 Step L (ct 1). Brush R heel fwd (ct 2), step on R toe (ct 3), step L (ct 4), brush R heel fwd (ct 5), step on R toe (ct 6).
 - 2 Step L (ct 1), hold (ct 2). Small jump to R (ct 3), hold (ct 4), small jump to L (ct 5), hold (ct 6). Meas 2 travels fwd, twd ptr.
 - 3 Step R (ct 1). Go into the air with the L knee bending, then flexing R knee (ct 2). Land on L (ct 3), step R (ct 4), small jump to L (ct 5). Step R, leaving L on floor (ct 6), hold (ct 7). Meas 3 makes a 1/2 CW turn in the air.
 - 4-6 Repeat action of meas 1-3, Part I, traveling back to original place.
 - 7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6, Part I.

- PART II -- Zapateado con Vuelta (Footwork with turn)
- Ptrs have R shoulders twd each other to begin this section.
- 1 Step on R, whole ft (ct 1), step on L heel (ct 2), step R (ct 3), step L (ct 4), brush R heel fwd (ct 5), small jump into air (ct 6).
 - 2 Step R in place (ct 1), step L in place (ct 3), step R (ct 5). During meas 2, turn 1/2 rotation CW to end with L shoulder twd ptr.
 - 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part II, reversing ftwork.
 - 5 Repeat action of meas 1, Part II.
 - 6 Step R rotating CW to face ptr (ct 1), hold (ct 2), step L (ct 3), hold (ct 4). Keeping wt on L, step R in place and rotate L shoulder twd ptr (ct 6).
 - 7 Step L (ct 1), brush R heel fwd (ct 2), step on R toe (ct 3), step L (ct 4), brush R heel fwd (ct 5), step on R toe (ct 6). During meas 7, make one full CCW turn.
 - 8 Step L (ct 1), step R (ct 3), step L (ct 5).
 - 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Part II.

- PART III -- Caballito with corner
- Count off line so there are alternating cpls #1 and #2.
- 1-3 Repeat ft action of meas 1-3, Part I. Cpl #1M and cpl #2W approach each other and meet in ctr R shoulder to R shoulder. Cpl #1W and cpl #2M dance in place.
 - 4-6 Repeat ft action of meas 1-3, Part I. Cpl #1M and cpl #2W continue path in space and change original places. #1W and #2M meet in ctr, R shoulders together.

EL CABALLITO (continued)

- 7-9 Repeat ft action of meas 1-3, Part I. #1M and #2W traveling back to ctr, #1W and #2M continuing path to change original place.
 10-12 Repeat action of meas 1-3, Part I, all cpls returning to original place.

PART IV -- Zapateado changing sides

- 1-8 Repeat action of meas 1-8, Part II, with the variation of changing places with ptrs during CCW turn and ending meas 8 all facing same direction (LOD) with W at L side of M.
 9 Repeat action of meas 1, Part II.
 10 Repeat action of meas 2, Part II, traveling R.
 11-12 Repeat action of meas 9-10, Part IV, reversing ftwork and direction of travel.
 13-14 Repeat action of meas 9-10, Part IV.
 15 Repeat action of meas 11, Part IV, W handing R end of Rebozo to M who takes it in his L hand.
 16 W steps L (ct 1), steps R (ct 3), steps L (ct 5), while M steps on L (ct 1) taking 1 full CCW turn swinging R leg over Rebozo as if mounting a horse.

(At the end of Part IV, M has R end of Rebozo in L hand; Rebozo passes between his legs and behind W and is grasped with her L hd. W has R hd on M shoulder and balances on Rebozo as if she is riding it side saddle.)

PART V -- Caballito to form circle

- 1-12 Repeat action of Part I, traveling fwd in LOD and head cpl curving line CCW so by meas 12 there is a closed circle.

PART VI -- Zapateado -- In and out

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part II. Cpl #1 traveling to fwd R direction and cpl #2 traveling fwd L on meas 2.
 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part VI, reversing ftwork and cpls #1 and #2 moving in opp fwd directions.
 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4, Part VI, three more times.

PART VII -- Caballito

- 1-12 Repeat action of Part V.

PART VIII -- Zapateado with fall

- 1-2 Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part II, all cpls moving to R, away from the ctr of the circle.
 3-4 Repeat action of meas 3-4, Part II, all cpls moving twd ctr. The W drops to her knees as if being thrown from the horse.
 5-16 W stays on knees. M repeats action of meas 1-4, Part VIII, three more times, ad libbing direction.

PART IX -- Caballito

- 1-12 Repeat action of Part V -- cpls could take an exit from space by following lead cpl.

Presented by Susan Cashion