

LA DANZA DE LOS VIEJITOS

(Mexico)

This dance is from the State of Michoacan. It is pronounced lah DAN-sah day loas vee-ay-HEE-toas, "The Dance of the Little Old Men."

La Danza de Los Viejitos is always danced by strong young men. The young men disguise themselves as old by wearing masks resembling old men and by leaning fwd heavily upon their canes as to appear feeble and shrunken in stature. Whenever the dancers appear in public their followers are fully appreciative of the humor of the dance.

The steps, although very similar, vary according to the artistry of the leader. Sometimes the leader carries a jarana, an ancient instrument resembling a ukulele. The dance originated with the Purepecha tribe of the Tarascan Indians.

Music: Rhythms are 1/2, 6/8, 2/4, and 4/4 time. Record is Folk Dancer MH-1103A.

Formation: Dancers are in no particular formation. This dance can be done in a circle moving CCW or a straight line moving fwd. With R hand in small of back, dancers are slightly bent over.

Meas ct

Figure I. Walking Step (1/4 time)

Taking a step on each beat, walk fwd with 8 slow steps, beginning with L ft.

Figure II. (6/8 time)

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1 | 1-4 Beginning with R ft, take 4 steps in place, ft slightly apart. |
| | 5-6 Pause. |
| 2 | Repeat meas 1. |
| 3-4 | Beginning with R ft, take 10 steps turning R. Pause on last two cts of meas 4. |
| 5-6 | Repeat meas 1-2. |
| 7-8 | Repeat meas 3-4, turning to L. |
| 9-10 | Repeat meas 1-2. |
| 11-12 | Repeat meas 3-4, going diag L. |
| 13-14 | Repeat meas 1-2. |
| 15-16 | Repeat meas 3-4, going diag R. |

LA DANZA DE LOS VIEJITOS (continued)

Figure III. (2/4 time)

- 1 1 Jump on both ft slightly apart.
 & Jump with both ft slightly further apart.
 2 Jump on both ft together.
 & Hold.
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3 1 Step onto R ft.
 & Touch L ft behind R ft.
 2 Step onto L ft.
 & Touch R ft behind L ft.
- 4 1 Take 4 even stamping steps, beginning with R ft.
 2 Take one more stamping step, making a total of 5 stamps
 in meas 4, and then pause.
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times.
- 17 Stamp four times, starting with the R, as follows:
 Ct 1 & 2 &
 Stamp x x x x x
 These steps are done very quickly.
- 18-20 Repeat meas 17 three more times. On first beat of meas 20,
 jump on both ft. On next 4 beats, do 4 more walking steps.

Figure IV. (2/4 time)

- 1 1 Step to R with R ft.
 & Touch L ft by R ft.
 2 Step to L with L ft.
 & Touch R ft by L ft.
- 2 Repeat meas 1.
- 3-4 Beginning with R ft, do 5 stamps in place, not taking wt on
 the last one:
 Ct 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 &
 Stamp x x x x x x
- 5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times.
- 17 1 Jump up and click heels together.
 & Land with both ft slightly apart.
 2 Jump and click heels as in ct 1.
 & Land with both ft slightly apart.
- 18 Repeat meas 17.
- 19-20 Repeat meas 3-4.
- 21-32 Repeat meas 17-20 three more times.
- 33-36 Do the stamping sequence of Fig. III, meas 17-20.
 Do 4 more walking steps.

LA DANZA DE LOS VIEJITOS (continued)

Figure V. (2/4 time)

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| 1 | 1 | Point R ft fwd |
| | 2 | Point R to R side. |
| 2 | 1 | Point R ft bkwd. |
| | 2 | Step R next to L ft. Do not take wt on R ft. |
| 3 | | Take 5 stamping steps, starting with the R ft, as follows: |
| | | Ct 1 & 2 & |
| | | Stamp x x x x x |
| 4 | | Repeat meas 3, starting with the L ft. |
| 5-8 | | Repeat meas 1-4, not taking wt on L ft on ct & of 2 in meas 8. |
| 9-10 | | Repeat meas 1-2, starting with the L ft. |
| 11-12 | | Repeat meas 3-4. |
| 13-16 | | Repeat meas 9-12. |

Figure VI. (2/4 time)

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|-------|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Step out to R with R ft. |
| | & | Step out to L with L ft. |
| | 2 | Step out further to R with R ft. |
| | & | Step out further to L with L ft. |
| 2 | 1 | Step in a bit with R ft. |
| | & | Step in a bit with L ft. |
| | 2 | Step closer in with R ft. |
| | & | Step closer in with L ft. (Ft are first spread, then brought together.) |
| 3-4 | | Repeat meas 3-4 of Fig. V. |
| 5-16 | | Repeat meas 1-4 three more times. |
| 17 | | Do the stamping sequence of meas 17 of Fig. III. |
| 18-19 | | Repeat meas 17 twice more. |
| 20 | 1 | Jump on both ft in place. |
| | 2 | Hold. |
| | | Do 4 more walking steps. |

Figure VII.

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| 1-16 | | Repeat Fig. II. |
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Finish with 12 walking steps as in Part I.

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