

LOS MACHETES  
(Mexico)

Traditional knife dance for the states of Nayarit and Jalisco. The dance is often done only by the men to demonstrate their "machismo" or prowess. The following is a choreographic arrangement for a mixed group by Susan Cashion.

Music: RCA Victor MKL 1448. Side 2, Band 2. 2/4 meter.

Formation: Double circle. W on outside.

Style: W holds rebozo and skirt at sides, using it freely. M holds machete (long knife) in each hand and clasps them behind back.

Meas      Pattern

Introduction (3 beats). W facing CW, M facing CCW. No action.

PART I. TRAVELING

- 1      Small leap to L (ct 1). Step to place on R (ct &). Small leap to L (ct 2). Brush R heel to front (ct &).
- 2      Repeat action of meas 1, Part I, reversing ftwork.
- 3-7    Repeat action of meas 1-2, Part I, 2-1/2 times.
- 8      Small leap to R (ct 1). Stamp L in place (ct &). Stamp R in place (ct 2).
- 9-16   Repeat action of meas 1-8, Part I. During meas 16, turn and face a ptr, bending torso twd ptr and rotating shoulders R.

PART II. TURNS

- 4 meas for each turn: CCW, CW, CCW, CW.
- 1      Step back L with L (ct 1). Step together with R and push off (ct &). Step L (ct 2). Step together with R and push off (ct &).
- 2-3    Repeat action of meas 1, Part II, twice.
- 4      Stamp L in place (ct 1). Stamp R in place (ct &). Stamp L in place (ct 2). Ptrs are facing again, bending torso fwd and rotating shoulders to L.
- 5-8    Repeat action of meas 1-4, Part II, reversing ftwork.
- 9-16   Repeat action of meas 1-8, Part II. M ends facing ctr of circle.

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## LOS MACHETES (continued)

PART III. HITTING KNIVES

Description for M who bring knives from behind back.

W do ftwork and move skirts in figure-8 pattern.

- 1 Hop on L, kicking R bkwd and hitting knives together in front of body (ct 1). Hop L, kicking R fwd high and hitting knives under R leg (ct 2).
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1, Part III, reversing ftwork. (Leap onto R (ct 1), kicking L.)
- 3 Leap onto L, kicking R bkwd and hitting knives in front of body (ct 1). Hop L kicking R fwd and hitting knives behind back (ct 2).
- 4-6 Repeat action of meas 1-3, Part III, reversing ftwork.
- 7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6, Part III.
- 13-15 Repeat action of meas 1-3, Part III.
- 16 Jump both ft together, clasping knives behind back.

IV, V, VI.

Repeat Parts I, II, III. Exception: On ct 2 of meas 3 (Part III), hit knives over head instead of behind back.

VII, VIII.

Repeat Parts I, II.

IX. (Basically the same as Part III).

- 1-3 Repeat the action of meas 1-3 of Part III.
- 4 Leap onto R, kicking L to back and hitting knives in front of body (ct 1). Hop R kicking L to front and hitting knives over head (ct 2).
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4, Part IX.

X.

Repeat Part I.

End with three final stamps (Remate).

Presented by Susan Cashion