

## Al je ljepo

(Baranja, Hungary)

Al je ljepo (AHL-yeh LYEH-poh), means "It is really beautiful (in our area)." The Bosnian Croats (Bošnjaci) migrated to the Hungarian part of the Baranja region near the town of Pécs at the end of the 17th century. Despite the long period of their being among other nationalities, they have survived and kept their speech patterns as well as their wealth of all folk forms, thanks to the village elders. Their rich and unique folk songs reflect daily life of the people - work in the house, in the farmyard, in the field, the joys and the sorrows of everyday life. Željko Jergan found this dance while doing research near the city of Pécs in the summer of 1992. Željko presented this at Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2009, at the University of the Pacific.

Music: 2/4 meter CD: *Baština Hrvatskog Sela* by Otrov, Band 3.  
Video: Stockton Folk Dance 2009, DVD\*.

Formation: Closed circle, alternating M and W, facing ctr.

Steps and Styling: Earthy walking steps, smooth buzz and grapevine steps.  
**Grapevine:** Moving in RLOD (L); step on L to L (ct 1); step on R behind L (ct &); step on L to L (ct 2); step on R across L (ct &).  
**Buzz to L:** Step on L to L on ball of ft (ct 1); step R across L (ct &); 2 buzz steps per meas.  
**Rocking Out and In:** Shift wt back onto L (ct 1); shift wt fwd onto R (ct 2). In verses II and III, there is a double bounce on each step.

Hands: Verse 1: Hands joined in V-position.  
Verse 2: Escort pos: R arm bent & across body at waist, L arm resting on neighbors R arm.  
Verse 3: Front basket hold, R over L under.

---

Meas	2/4 meter	Pattern
I	VERSE 1	
1	No action.	
2-3	Facing L of ctr and moving RLOD (L) - walk fwd, L, R, L, R (4 steps) (cts 1,2, 1,2).	
4-5	Facing twd ctr Rock Out and In, twice (4 steps), circle moves in RLOD (L) (cts 1,2, 1,2).	
6	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
7-10	Buzz steps to L, (cts 1,&,2&). Total of 8 buzz steps.	
11	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
12-15	Buzz steps to L, (cts 1,&,2&). Total of 8 buzz steps.	
16	Grapevine, 4 steps (cts 1,&,2,&).	
17-18	Facing ctr, walk fwd L, R (cts 1,2); sway L, R (cts 1,2). Change to Escort hold. (Note: There is no music during these 2 measures.)	

II VERSE 2

- 1-3 Facing L of ctr and moving RLOD (L) - walk fwd, L, R, L, R, L, R (6 steps).
- 4-5 Facing twd ctr, Rocking Out and In, L, R, L, R (double bounce on each step).
- 6-18 Repeat meas 6-18 of Figure I. On the final measure, change to front basket hold.

III VERSE 3

- 1-18 Repeat Figure II.

\* Stockton Folk Dance Camp video can be viewed in the library at U of P, or by contacting a camp participant who purchased it.

## Al je ljepo

Lyrics

Translation

Al je ljepo u našime kraju  
Ej zvje-zde sjaju i cure pjevaju  
Dikin pendzer u naš pendžer gledi  
Ej prstom miče ne smije da više

It's really beautiful in our area  
When the stars are shining and girls are singing  
My sweetheart's window is across from mine  
He's motioning for me to come to him.

The musical score is written in 2/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has two staves. The top staff contains the melody with lyrics in two lines: "Al je lje - po u na - ši - me kra - ju" and "Di - kin pen - džer u naš pen - džer gle - di". The bottom staff contains the translation: "al je lje - po u na - ši - me kra - ju" and "di - kin pen - džer u naš pen - džer gle - di". The second system also has two staves. The top staff contains the melody with lyrics: "Ej zvje - zde sja - ju" and "Ej pr - stom mi - će". The bottom staff contains the translation: "i cu - re pje - va - ju" and "ne smi - je da vi - će".