

Asadoya Yunta

(Japan)

Asadoya Yunta (ah-sah-doh-yah yoon-tah) is from Okinawa Prefecture and was originally a women's dance. Asadoya is a "house name" which presumably is like a family name; "yunta" means a working song. The dance was taught by Iwao and Machiko Tamaoki at the 2000 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton.

Cassette: Tamaoki Stockton 2000, Band A/8. approx. 2/4 meter
(The dance has irregular counts on some meas.)

Formation: Individual dancers in a circle facing center; hands on waist with fingers forward.

Steps and Styling: All "touches" are done next to opp ft.
Movements are flowing and graceful; claps are almost silent.

Meas	Pattern
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20 cts INTRODUCTION (following an initial "ta-da," there are 3 phrases of 4 cts each and then a 6-ct phrase). No action.

I. MARCHING

- 1-2 Moving twd ctr, walk 3 steps (L,R,L)(cts 1,2,1); turn 1/4 (CW) to face R while touching R toe next to L (ct 2).
- 3-4 Walk fwd (LOD) with 3 steps (R,L,R)(cts 1,2,1); turn 1/2 over L shldr (CCW) to face RLOD while touching L toe next to R (ct 2).
- 5-6 Walk fwd (RLOD) with 3 steps (L,R,L)(cts 1,2,1); turn 1/4 to R (CW) to face ctr while touching R toe (ct 2).
- 7-8+ Walk bkwd to original pos with 4 steps (R,L,R)(cts 1,2,1); step on L next to R (ct 2); touch R toe on ct 3. Meanwhile hands are lifted fwd and up to head level, slightly spread with palms facing, and then gradually back to waist (ryote plus ake oroshi).

II. STEP-TOUCHES WITH HAND PUSH

- 1 Step fwd on R ft bringing R arm gracefully up and angled slightly to R with palm fwd (furinobashi) (ct 1); touch L toe next to R, turn head to watch R hand as it pushes gently fwd (ct 2). L hand is on waist, fingers fwd.
- 2 Repeat meas 1 to L with opp ft and hand motions. R hand is on R waist.
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.
- 5 Repeat meas 1.

III. SAA YUI YUI AND EYE-SHADING TURN

- 1 Step diagonally fwd to L on L ft while bringing arms gracefully up in front to head level (ct 1); place R ft in front of L (no wt), and clap softly (ct 2).
- 2 Clap a 2nd time (ct 1); (there is no ct 2). While doing meas 1-2 say “saa yui yui.”
- 3 Starting a CW turn (to R), step to R on R ft bringing R arm up to head level and out in front (about 1 ft) with palm fwd as if to shade eyes (akekazashi) and place fingers of L hand on inside of R elbow (ct 1); touch L toe next to R (ct 2).
- 4 Continuing with CW turn, repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and hands.
- 5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 completing turn to again face ctr. It is also preferable to use this turn to move back somewhat away from ctr toward original pos at beginning of dance.

IV. CLAP. HANDS PUSH UP. TURN TO LEFT

- 1 With no ft movements, bring arms down to chest height with fingers pointing together (ct 1); step to R on R ft while continuing arm movements down and to sides and then gracefully moving them in front (ryote awase) (ct 2).
- 2 Step on L in front of R (wt on both ft) while gently clapping hands held down in front (ct 1); while holding ft pos, bring hands twd body twisting them near waist so palms are twd the body and then rotate hands so as to bring palms up and facing out as arms are brought above head level (ct 2).
- 3 Give push upward with hands as if lifting a weight while stepping out on L ft to begin turn to L (CCW)(ct 1); continue turn with step on R, hands still held high (ct 2).
- 4-5 Continue turn (CCW) while simultaneously moving away from ctr to original starting pos in circle with 3 more steps (L,R,L) (cts 1,2,1); close R to L to end facing ctr (ct 2). During these 2 meas, hands are gradually brought back to waist.

Dance repeats three more times followed by a finale.

FINALE

Repeat Fig. I three times, but meas 7-8 are extended to 6 cts (instead of 5). For the first 2 of these repeats, back up 4 steps (R,L,R,L) (cts 1-4); close R to L taking wt (ct 5); hold (ct 6). On the 3rd repeat, music retards; end with hands held gracefully out to sides and down at about 30 degree angle, with palms fwd.