

Baztan-Dantza

(Spain)

Baztan-Dantza (BAHS-tahn DAHN-sah) is a traditional men's social dance from Navarre's Baztan Valley in the Basque region of Spain. Today women are sometimes allowed to join in. Many versions of this dance exist. This one was learned in Spain by Candi de Alaiza who presented it at the 1978 Mendocino Folklore Camp. In January of 1979, Dean and Nancy Linscott presented it at the Federation Institute in San Jose.

RECORD: Westwind WI-3332 Side-A/9. 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Individual dancers in an informal circle facing LOD (CCW), hands down at sides. In order to have freedom of movement, dancers need not be directly one behind the other but may spread out a little.

STEPS and STYLING: Steps are done lightly on balls of ft; heels do not touch the floor. Only in Fig V are steps taken on the full ft.

Step-hop (2 to a meas): Step on ball of R ft (ct 1); hop on ball of R ft (ct &). Repeat action with opp ftwk (cts 2, &). On all step-hop turns, the heel of the free ft is brought toward the shin of the supporting leg (ct &).

Finger Snaps: Raise hands to sides about head height, elbows bent and snap fingers. On all turns moving in LOD, fingers are snapped on the hop (ct &) of each step-hop.

During the rest of the dance, hands are naturally at sides.

MUSIC	2/4 meter	PATTERN
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Measures

3 beats INTRODUCTION No action.

I. TRAVEL IN LOD

1 Moving fwd in LOD, step R,L,R (cts 1,&,2); hop on R (ct &).

2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk.

3 Beg R ft, turn once CW with 2 Step-hops, still moving LOD. Snap fingers on each hop.

4 Moving fwd in LOD, step R,L,R (cts 1,&,2); hold with small flex of R knee (ct &).

5-8 Still moving in LOD, repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk. Turn CCW on meas 7.

II. SHORT TURNS

1-2 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 3-4.

3-4 Moving in RLOD, repeat action of meas 1-2 with opp ftwk. Turn CCW on the step-hops and end facing ctr. Hands remain at sides; no finger snaps.

5-8 Turning to face LOD, repeat action of meas 1-4.

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III. NO TURNS

- 1-2 Repeat action of Fig I, meas 1-2.
- 3 Beg R and moving bkwd in RLOD, dance 2 step-hops.
- 4 Moving bkwd in RLOD, step R,L (cts 1,&); small step fwd on R in LOD (ct 2); hold with small flex of R knee (ct &).
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 with opp ftwk.

IV. LONG TURNS

- 1-3 Beg R and moving in LOD, dance 3 CW turns with 6 step-hops. Fingers snap on each hop.
- 4 Moving fwd in LOD, step R,L,R (cts 1,&,2); hold with small flex of R knee.
- 5-6 Repeat action of Fig II, meas 3-4.
- 7-12 Repeat action of meas 1-6. At end, step on R turning to face LOD (ct &).

V. BRUSH AND CLAPS

- 1 Step on L (full ft) in place (ct 1); do a small "brush" of the R ft fwd (ct &); stepping R,L in place, turn 1/4 CCW to face ctr (cts 2,&). On the "brush" the ft does not touch the floor but just clears it.
- 2 Turning 1/4 CCW to face RLOD, step R (ct 1); do a small "brush" of L ft fwd (ct &); step L beside R (ct 2); hold (ct &).
- 3 Clap hands 3 times at chest level (cts 1,&,2); hold (ct &).
- 4-6 Repeat action of meas 1-3 with opp ftwk and turning CW to face LOD.
- 42 meas Repeat action of Figs I-V.

VI. ENDING

- 1-2 Dance a 3/4 turn CW to face ctr by crossing L ft over R and pivoting on balls of ft. Finish with ft together. DO NOT BOW.

Description written September 1979.

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