

## Čoček za merak

(Southern-Macedonia – Gipsy community of Bitola and Prilep)

“Čoček” is the generic name for the dances from the Gipsy communities in Macedonia. “Gypsy” and “gipsy” are also referred to as “Rom.” Paul Mulders learned this particular one in Bitola in the 1980s. He originally identified it as “Romsko Bitolsko oro,” until he found this stunning music from the band “Mladi Talenti” (=Young Talents). “Merak” is great love or passion; so Čoček za merak (TSCHOH-tschehk zah MEH-rahk) is the impassioned Čoček. Paul presented the dance at the 2005 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

CD: PAMUK CD 1104/06, Band 4 4/4 meter

Formation: Mixed open circle, hands in a low and relaxed W-pos. Wt on L, face ctr.

Styling: Dance relaxedly with syncopic knee-movements (bend both knees on the “&” beat). The shoulders and hips make additional movements.

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Meas	4/4 meter	Pattern
8 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
	<u>BASIC STEP IN PLACE (CROSSING STEPS)</u>	
1	Step on R to R, leading with R heel (ct 1); step on L in front of R, leading with L heel (ct 2); step on ball of R ft back in place (ct 3); step on L to L with full ft (ct 4); step on R next to L with full ft (ct &).	
2	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.	
3	Repeat meas 1.	
4	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.	
	<u>TRAVEL STEP</u>	
5	Facing and moving in LOD, step on R (ct 1); touch L next to R (ct 2); step on L across in front of R (ct 3); step on R in LOD (ct 4); step on L in place and turn CCW to face ctr (ct &).	
Remark 1:	The steps in place of meas 1-4 are called “crossing steps,” but actually you do <i>not</i> cross over, just step in front of the other ft!	
Remark 2:	In the beginning of the dance you can dance measures 1-4 (crossing steps in place) more than once, until you see that everybody “has” the step. Paul saw that frequently done on feasts in the “romski” communities.	
Remark 3:	After a signal by the first dancer, add a CW turn (L,R,L) on cts 3, 4, & during the travel step.	