

Crăițele

(Romania)

Crăițele (kruh-EET-seh-lay) is popular in the villages of Poiana and Polovraci from the region of Oltenia. The dance name means "beautiful lady" and was originally dance by women only. The dance belongs to the family of dances called "Rustemul". Mihai David presented the dance at the 1982 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp. He learned it from his brother, Alexandru, who learned it from Ion Petcu, former soloist with the Romanian Rhapsody Ensemble and now chairman of folk dance teaching at the Popular School of Arts in Bucharest.

RECORD: Gypsy Camp Vol V (33) Side B/3 (Slow it a bit) 2/4 meter

FORMATION: Short lines in "T" pos: hands on nearest shldrs of neighbors, arms extended. Face ctr, wt on L ft.

STYLE: Smooth, precise, light and free flowing. Stand erect but relaxed with wt on balls of ft and heels close to floor.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

NO INTRODUCTION

I. TRAVEL SIDEWARD RIGHT AND LEFT

- 1 Facing ctr, step on R to R side (ct 1); step on L behind R, extending straight R leg on a R diag (ct &); step on R to R side (ct 2); step on L behind R, extending straight R leg on a R diag (ct &).
- 2 Repeat cts 1,&,2 of meas 1 (cts 1,&,2); brush L ft diag fwd L, striking L heel on floor in passing (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftkw and direction.
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

II. CROSSING STEPS

- 1 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step on L in place (ct &); step on R diag bkwd R (ct 2); step on L in place (ct &).
- 2 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step on L in place (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2); hop on R (ct &).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftkw.
- 5 Step on R across in front of L (ct 1); step on L in place (ct &); step on R beside L (ct 2); hop on R (ct &).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftkw.
- 7 Repeat meas 5.
- 8 Step on L across in front of R (ct 1); step on R in place (ct &); step on L beside R (ct 2); brush R ft diag fwd R, striking R heel on floor in passing.

Repeat dance from the beginning.

