

JARABE DE LA BOTELLA

(Mexico)

This version of Jarabe de la Botella (Hah-RAH-beh day la Boh-TAY-yah) was introduced to California folk dancers at University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp, Stockton, California, in 1967, by Señora Alura Flores de Angeles of Mexico City. A different version was presented at University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp by Henry "Buzz" Glass in 1957. The Jarabe of the Bottle, from the State of Jalisco, is a mestizo dance of Spanish origin, which comes from sones or songs of ancient jarabes. During the dance the M places a bottle of native liquor, tequila, on the floor. Both M and W demonstrate their agility by performing over and around it. One verse relates that anyone spilling the bottle must refill its contents. Both make "passes" at the bottle, and W is seemingly the victor. However, at the conclusion both possess the bottle. Early stories describe the M in roguish character as drinking part of the contents and then later balancing the bottle on his head.

MUSIC: Record: Peerless 45/5325-A, Orquesta Vernacula Carlos Robledo.
Los Amigos MAA 10043-B "Jarabe de la Botella".
Played and recorded by several Mariachis, the arrangement of the various melodies and the number of times a melody is repeated will vary. This description was arranged to fit the Peerless record.

FORMATION: Lines of cpls in longways formation, M with L shoulder twd music. Ptrs face each other, standing about 5 ft apart, R ft free. M has hands clasped in back, one hand holding the bottle. W holds skirt at sides. Unless otherwise specified, ftwork is the same for both M and W.

STEPS AND STYLING: Jarabe Step (1 meas of 6/8 music): Stamp fwd on R heel (ct 1); step on ball of L ft next to R ft (ct 2); step on ball of R ft in place (ct 3); repeat action of cts 1, 2, 3 using opp ftwork (cts 4, 5, 6). When danced in a series, begin each step on the same ft.

Atole Step (1 meas of 6/8 music): Step fwd on R ft (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step on ball of L ft behind and a little to R of R ft (ct 3); step fwd on R (ct 4); hold (cts 5-6).

Begin the next Atole Step on the L ft.

(1 meas of 2/4 music): Step fwd on R ft (ct 1); step on ball of L ft behind and a little to R of R ft (ct 2); step fwd on R (ct 2).

Modified Pas de Basque Step (as used in dancing around the bottle) (1 meas of 3/4 music): Swing R ft over the bottle as preparation and leap to the R onto R ft (ct 1); step on L ft in front of R, keeping L ft close to the floor as it moves behind the bottle (ct 2); stamp slightly bkwd on R ft (ct 3). The step alternates, the next one beginning with a leap to L over the bottle.

Stamp-Hop-Step (1 meas of 3/4 music): Stamp fwd on L ft (ct 1); hop on L ft, swinging R across in front of L leg, R knee bent (ct 2); step R in place (ct 3). The step does not alternate.

Rocking Step (1 meas of 2/4 music): Step on L ft, lifting R ft across in front of it, toe near the floor (ct 1); step fwd on R near L, lifting L ft across in back of R, toe near the floor (ct 2). The step is repeated in the same manner and does not alternate. Ft remain crossed, R in front of L, throughout the figure. Movement is slightly fwd.

Pas de Basque Step*, Push Step*

*Described in volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., San Francisco, California 94103

MUSIC 6/8, 3/4, 2/4

PATTERN

Measures INTRODUCTION

2 chords Stamp R ft in place (1st chord); stamp L in place (2nd chord).

I. JARABE CROSSOVER

The melody consists of 3 meas of 6/8 meter followed by 1 meas of 3/4 meter.

6/8
A 1-3 Beginning with R ft, move fwd twd ptr with 3 Jarabe Steps.

3/4
4 Stamp R (ct 1); stamp L (ct 2); stamp R (ct 3).

5-8 Passing ptr by R shoulder, repeat action of meas 1-4, using opp ftwork and moving fwd

JARABE DE LA BOTELLA (continued)

to ptr pos. Turn R to face ptr on meas 8.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8, passing ptr by R shoulder and returning to original pos. Turn R to face ptr on meas 16.

II. ATOLE CROSSOVER, INTERLUDE, AND CROSSOVER

6/8

B 1-8 Beginning R, cross over to ptr place with 8 Atole Steps, passing ptr by R shoulder. Turn R to face ptr on meas 8.

9-15 Return to own pos with 7 Atole Steps, passing ptr by R shoulder and turning R to face ptr on meas 15.

16 Stamp L (ct 1); hold (cts 2-6).

INTERLUDE

17 Stamp R in place (ct 1); hold (cts 2-6).

18 Stamp L in place (ct 1); hold (cts 2-6).

19-24 (Drums) Dance 6 Jarabe Steps in place, beginning R.

1-16 (repeated) Repeat action of meas 1-16 (Fig II). M place bottle on floor between his ptr and himself as he returns to his original pos.

III. AROUND THE BOTTLE (MODIFIED PAS DE BASQUE STEPS)

3/4

C 1-4 W approach the bottle with 4 Pas de Basque Steps, beginning R.

5-14 W dance 10 Modified Pas de Basque Steps, beginning R and moving slightly L, completing a CW circle around the bottle in 10 steps.

NOTE: During meas 1-14 M dance 14 Pas de Basque Steps in place, facing W.

15 Both turn R (M in place, W moving away from bottle twd her original pos) with three steps, R (ct 1); L (ct 2); R (ct 3).

16 Facing ptr, stamp L in place (ct 1); stamp R in place without wt (ct 2); hold (ct 3).

17-32 Repeat action of meas 1-16 (Fig III) but M dance the pattern described for W, while W does the action described for the M. R ft takes wt on Stamp R in meas 32.

33-35 Facing the bottle and moving fwd twd it, both dance 3 Stamp-Hop-Steps, with stamp on L ft.

36 Stamp L in place (ct 1); stamp R in place (ct 2); stamp L in place (ct 3).

37-40 Moving bkwd to original pos, repeat action of meas 33-36 (Fig III) with opp ftwork. Do not take wt on last stamp R.

IV. AROUND THE BOTTLE (VARIATION)

3/4

C 1-4 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-4.

5-14 Facing the bottle, W dance a CW circle around it with 10 of the following steps: Jump onto both ft (ct 1); hop twice on L ft as R describes a CW circle in the air over the top of the bottle (cts 2, 3). R ft moves inward, fwd, outward, then back and in twd L. Hop only on the L throughout the figure - do not alternate R and L.

NOTE: During meas 1-14 M dance 14 Pas de Basque Steps in place, facing W.

15-16 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 15-16 (Turn in place and Stamp).

17-32 Repeat action of meas 1-16 (Fig IV), with M dancing the variation around the bottle and W dancing Pas de Basque Steps in place during meas 21-30. R ft takes wt on stamp R in meas 32.

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33-40 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 33-40, but R ft takes wt on stamp R in meas 40.

V. PICKING UP BOTTLE

2/4

- D 1 Walk fwd twd ptr with 2 steps, L-R (cts 1, 2).
- 2-3 Complete pirouette turn L as follows: Step on L ft (ct 1); cross R in front of L and place R toe on L side of L ft (ct 2). With wt on both ft complete a 3/4 turn CCW, ending with L shoulder twd ptr (ct 1, meas 3); hold (ct 2). W pick up the bottle with R hand during the turn.
- 4-6 Dance 6 Push Steps to R, returning to own pos.
- 7-9 Repeat action of meas 1-3 (Fig V) but extending the turn to finish facing ptr.
- 10-12 With R shoulder twd ptr, both holding the bottle in R hands about head high, turn together CW with 6 Push Steps to R.

VI. FINALE

2/4

- E 1-8 Still holding bottle in R hands, dance 8 Atole Steps beginning L, turning together CW.
- 9-16 Continue turning together CW with 8 Rocking Steps, beginning L.
- Chords Keeping the bottle and transferring it to her L hand, W kneel, bending low. Simultaneously, M swing R leg over W and complete a pirouette turn L as in meas 2-3, Fig V (chords 1-2).
M offer R hand to W, who rises beside him. With inside hands holding the bottle shoulder high, both face up the line (chords 3-4) Raise the bottle high (chord 5).