

JOTA DE BADAJOZ

(Spain)

The Jota is one of the most popular dance forms in Spain. Badajoz (Bah-thah-hohs) is the name of both a province and its capital. They are located in the south-western part of Spain near the Portuguese border. Research for this dance was done by Madelynne Greene during her trip to Spain and Portugal in 1962. She introduced the dance in California at the 1967 Mendocino Folklore Camp.

MUSIC: Record: Fiesta in España CLP 4001 Side 2, Band 1

FORMATION: Any number of cpls in a closed circle facing LOD, W at M R side. Arms are curved upward and slightly fwd. M stands so his curved R arm is behind the W shoulders. Fingers may be snapped or castanets may be played.

STEPS AND STYLING: Traveling Heel Pas de Basque (1 to a meas): Leap diag fwd R onto R (ct 1). Step on L heel in front of R (ct 2). Step on R in back of L heel (ct 3). Next step starts diag fwd L on L ft.

Jota Step(R) (1 to 2 meas): Spring onto both ft, bending knees, toes turned out and R heel near L instep (cts 1,2). Hop on L while raising bent R leg out to R side (ct 3). Step R in back of L, starting to travel to own L (meas 2, ct 1). Step L to L side (ct 2). Step R across in front of L (ct 3). Jota Step(L) would start with the L heel near R instep and the L leg being raised. Movement would be to own R.

Waltz (1 to a meas): Steps are small, light, and smooth. Wt is well fwd on balls of the ft. Accent is on ct 1 and the closing step is on ct 3.

Footwork throughout is same for both M and W. All Fig start with R ft.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

2 meas INTRODUCTION No action. Musically the Introduction is heard as 4 chords and 2 notes.

I. TRAVELING HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

A 1-2 Beginning R, dance 2 Traveling Heel Pas de Basques moving in LOD.

3 Small step fwd on R (ct 1). With wt still on R, start to describe a fwd circle in the air with the bent L leg (ct 2). Ft is parallel to floor and leg moves fwd, up, and back. As circle is nearing completion, chug a small step bwd on R (ct 3).

4 Step on L parallel to but a little behind R (ct 1). Step R beside L (ct 2). Step L in place (ct 3).

5-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 twice.

13-14 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

15 Spin on R ft turning R (W 3/4, M 1-1/4) to end facing ptr. L ft is held behind R calf, toe pointed down and knee turned out.

16 Step L beside R (ct 1). Hold cts 2,3.

II. TOE-HEEL AND JOTA STEP

B 1 With wt on L, place R toe (heel up) on floor to R side (ct 1). Place R heel on floor on same spot (ct 2). Place R toe (heel up) on same spot (ct 3).

2 Place R heel on same spot (ct 1). Place R toe on floor next to supporting ft (ct 2). Place R heel out to R side but not so far as before (ct 3). L ft does not hop during this step. A twisting motion will result because of the toe-heel action during the first 4 cts.

JOTA DE BADAJOZ (continued)

3-4 Dance a Jota Step(R) moving to own L. If possible move in a small arc rather than in a straight line so as to remain opp ptr.

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) but with opp footwork.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II).

III. BACKWARD WALTZ WITH PARTNER

C 1-6 Sweep R arm bwd and down in an arc while turning body to L (about a 1/4 turn). Continue swinging R arm fwd and up to pos to finish with back of R shoulder almost touching back of ptr R shoulder. All this is done at the start of 6 small waltz steps beginning R which are danced bwds in a CCW circle with ptr. Waltz is light but smooth. End on own side of dance. It is most important to keep eye contact with ptr during this waltzing.

7-8 Spin on R to R as described in Fig I, meas 15-16 but end facing in LOD.

IV. TRAVELING HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

A 1-16 Repeat action of Fig I.

V. KICKS AND JOTA STEP

B 1 Facing ptr, spring onto R and extend L ft fwd and slightly across R shin (ct 1). Hold (ct 2). Quickly bring L back to step on it as R ft is kicked straight fwd (ct 3). This is a low kick.

2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig V).

3-4 Dance a Jota Step(R).

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig V) but with opp footwork.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V).

VI. BACKWARD WALTZ WITH PARTNER

C 1-8 Repeat action of Fig III

VII. TRAVELING HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

A 1-16 Repeat action of Fig I.

VIII. JOTA, SPIN, AND KICKS

B 1-2 Dance a Jota Step(R).

3 Spin on L 1 full turn to L. R ft is held behind L calf, toe pointed down and knee turned out.

4 In place, step on R as L is extended fwd in a low sharp kick (ct 1). Step on L as R is kicked fwd (ct 2). Step on R as L is kicked fwd (ct 3). These are sometimes called "scissors kicks".

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VIII) with opp footwork.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VIII).

IX. BACKWARD WALTZ WITH PARTNER

C 1-8 Repeat action of Fig III.

X. TRAVELING HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

A 1-16 Repeat action of Fig I.

JOTA DE BADAJOZ (continued)

XI. HEEL CLICKS AND WALTZ

- B 1 Step R across in front of L (cts 1,2). Hopping on R, click heels out to L side (ct 3). Do not turn body.
- 2 Repeat action of meas 1 (Fig XI) but with opp footwork.
- 3-4 Beginning with R, dance 2 waltz steps making a 3/4 turn to R (CW). Travel on a diag so as to end in a single circle, M facing LOD, W facing RLOD (and ptr). During the waltz, sweep L arm bwd, down, fwd, and up to original pos.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig XI) to end with M facing ctr and W with back to ctr.
- 9-12 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig XI) to end with M facing RLOD and W LOD.
- 13-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig XI) to end in original places.

XII. BACKWARD WALTZ WITH PARTNER

- C 1-8 Repeat action of Fig III.

XIII. TRAVELING HEEL PAS DE BASQUE

- A 1-16 Repeat action of Fig I.

Finale: On final 2 chords, stamp R, L assuming a typical pose.