

Las Chiapanecas

(Mexico)

Las Chiapanecas (lahs chee-ah-pah-NAY-kus) is a couple dance from Chiapas, Mexico. A number of versions have been taught to folk dancers by various teachers of Mexican dance. The following arrangement by Alura Flores de Angeles was presented by her at the 1978 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

MUSIC: Record: Peerless M/S 2024, S-2, B-3; and 45-4188B
3/4 meter.

FORMATION: Ptrs side by side, W to R of M, both facing "front" (a designated wall). M clasps hands behind back about waist level. W holds skirt at sides.

STEPS and Waltz*, step-hop*

STYLING: Basic Step: Step-hop on L in place while lifting R leg fwd, knee bent (cts 1-2); step on R in front of L (ct 3). Step repeats exactly. May also be danced beg with step-hop on R.

Brush Step: Step-hop on L in place while lifting R leg fwd, knee a little less bent than in the Basic Step (cts 1-2); brush sole of R ft bkwd (ct 3). This step is not repeated but it may be danced beg with step-hop on R.

Stamp Ending (2 meas); Meas 1: In place, stamp R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); stamp L (ct 3). Meas 2: Stamp R (ct 1); hold (cts 2-3). May also be danced beg with stamp on L ft.

Skirts: During Waltz figures skirts are held out to sides and moved gracefully. On the other figures the skirt moves with the working ft, i.e., when the R ft goes fwd, the R hand and skirt go fwd; when the R ft goes bkwd, the R hand and skirt go bkwd. L hand and skirt move in opposition to the R hand and skirt.

Throughout dance ftwk is identical for M and W, and there is a rapport between ptrs.

*Described in Steps and Styling published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

8 meas INTRODUCTION

In place, dance 7 small waltz steps beg R ft. On meas 8 step L,R (cts 1,2); hold (ct 3).

I. ONE BASIC AND BRUSH

A 1-2 Beg L, dance 1 Basic Step and 1 Brush Step.

3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.

5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2.

7-8 In place, stamp R,L,R,L (1 to a ct); hold (meas 8, cts 2-3).

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 with opp ftwk.

17-32 Repeat action of meas 1-16. Take no wt on last stamp on R (meas 32, ct 1).

II. WALTZ AND CLAP

B 1-2 Moving to R side, make a CW turn with 2 waltz steps.

- 3-4 Facing Front, do Stamp Ending beg R. On last 2 stamps clap hands twice at R side about shldr level and shout "Ole".
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) with opp ftwk and direction.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig II), Take no wt on last stamp on L (meas 16, ct 1).

III. THREE BASICS AND BRUSH

- C 1-3 Beg L, dance 3 Basic Steps.
- Styling note: Each time R leg is lifted, R heel may be turned in (meas 1); out (meas 2); in (meas 3). Heel turning is optional and may be omitted.
- 4 Beg L, dance 1 Brush Step.
- 5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig III) with opp ftwk.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig III).

IV. OVAL

- C 1-4 Beg L, dance 4 Basic Steps moving fwd twd Front.
- 5-10 Making 1/2 turn CW with 1 Basic Step, travel away from Front dancing 5 more Basic Steps.
- 11-12 Making 1/2 turn CW with 1 Basic Step, travel to orig pos dancing 1 more Basic Step. Take no wt on last step on R (meas 12, ct 3).
- 13-14 In place, beg R, turn CW with 2 waltz steps to end facing ptr (M turn 1/4 or 1 1/4 CW, W turn 3/4 CW).
- 15-16 Facing ptr, do Stamp Ending beg R.
- Dance is now repeated facing ptr. Ftwk remains the same with some additions as given below:

V. ONE BASIC AND BRUSH

- A 1-2 Beg L, dance 1 Basic Step and 1 Brush Step. On 1st step on L make 1/8 turn L so R shldrs are adjacent.
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig V) with opp ftwk, but on 1st step on R make 1/4 turn R so L shldrs are adjacent.
- 5-6 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig V).
- 7-8 Facing ptr, stamp R,L,R,L (1 to a ct); hold (meas 8, cts 2-3).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V) with opp ftwk and direction.
- 17-32 Repeat action of meas 1-16 (Fig V). Take no wt on last stamp on R (meas 32, ct 1).

VI. WALTZ AND CLAP

- B 1-16 Repeat action of Fig II. Beg by turning to own R away from ptr. On claps look at ptr.

VII. THREE BASICS AND BRUSH

- C 1-4 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 1-4, but on 1st step on L make 1/8 turn L so R shldrs are adjacent.
- 5-8 Repeat action of Fig III, meas 5-8, but on 1st step on R make 1/4 turn R so L shldrs are adjacent.
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig VII).

VIII. CIRCLING WITH PARTNER

- C 1-12 Beg L, dance 12 Basic Steps: move twd ptr until R shldrs are adjacent and circle CW twice around to end in orig place facing ptr. Take no wt on last step on R (meas 12, ct 3).
- 13-14 Beg R, turn CW once around with 2 waltz steps to finish facing ptr about 4 ft apart.
- 15-16 Beg R, do Stamp Ending. Take no wt on last stamp on R (meas 16, ct 1).

IX. WALTZ IN A CIRCLE

- C 1-12 Beg R, with 12 waltz steps circle CW, moving through ptr pos and returning to place. Keep steps small and maintain eye contact with ptr.
- 13-14 In place, beg R, turn CW with 2 waltz steps.
- 15-16 Facing ptr do Stamp Ending beg R.

X. CIRCLING WITH PARTNER.

- C 1-16 Repeat action of Fig VIII. Do Stamp Ending facing Front. Clap on last 2 stamps.