

SANTA RITA

(Northern Mexico)

Santa Rita (SAHN-tah REE-tah) is a couple dance from Northern Mexico. The dance was introduced by Nelda Drury at the 1974 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, California.

MUSIC: Record: Express 411B "Santa Rita". 2/4 meter.
C.B.S. EPC 393 (Columbia - 45 rpm). 2/4 meter.

FORMATION: Cpls in open pos facing LOD with free hands joined and pointing twd LOD.
Steps are described for M. W use opp ftwork unless otherwise noted.

18

STEPS: Polka*, Stamp*, Push*
Bounce: With wt on both ft, raise heels (upbeat). Lower heels (downbeat).
Taconazo: Step on R (ct 1), strike L heel on floor (pick it up immediately) (ct&), lift R heel leaving ball of ft on floor and snap R heel on floor (ct 2), strike L heel on floor picking it up immediately (ct &).
Repeat of step begins with step on L.
Quebrado (kay-BRAH-doh) or "Broken Ankle" (without wt) -- as done in Fig VI: Step on one ft turning ankle of free ft out, no wt. (Be sure to transfer wt to supporting ft before turning ankle of free ft.) Ft alternate on these steps, each are danced in even rhythm.
Quebrado or "Broken Ankle" (with wt): See end of Fig II.

STYLING: Santa Rita should be danced gaily and with exuberance.

* Described in Volume A-2 of Folk Dances From Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., San Francisco, California.

MUSIC 2/4

PATTERN

Measures

INTRODUCTION No musical introduction. Dance begins after the words "Santa Rita" and 2 pick-up notes.

I. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

- 1-4 Begin L, dance 4 polka steps fwd in LOD bending the body fwd on meas 1 and 3 and holding the body upright on meas 2 and 4.
- 5 Facing ptr, step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 1), step on R in front and slightly to L of L (ct 2).
- 6 Facing LOD, bend body from waist and point joined hands twd floor as you stamp L (ct 1), stamp (ct &), stamp L (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 7 Moving in RLOD but facing ptr step sdwd on R (ct 1), close L to R (ct &), step sdwd on R (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 8 Bending body from waist and pointing joined hands twd stamping ft, stamp L (ct 1), stamp L (ct 2).
- 9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig I).

II. SDWD TWO-STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

- 1 Facing ptr step sdwd L on L (ct 1), close R to L (ct &), step sdwd L on L (ct 2), hold (ct &).
- 2 Step on R in front and slightly to L of L ("Broken Ankle" #) (ct 1), step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 2).
- 3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig II) in opp direction with opp ftwk.
- 5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig II) three more times.

23

#"Broken Ankle" (with wt) is optional. Place the outer side of R ft on floor far enough to the side to prevent foot and leg from making a sharp bend. The ankle must bear wt for a moment. Be careful! It can be dangerous.

III. POLKA

1-16 In closed ballroom pos dance 16 turning polka steps traveling in LOD and turning CW. This polka is like a bouncy two-step with no hop. Arms go down and up with the movement of the body.

IV. BALANCE AND WRAP

1-2 Facing ptr with both hands joined straight across, M facing LOD, both beg R: balance fwd (twd ptr) with one polka step (R shldr adjacent); balance bkwd (away from ptr) with one polka step.

3-4 Dance 2 polka steps into "wrap" pos: With MR-WL joined hands at waist level and ML-WR joined hands held high, W turn L (CCW) under raised joined hands to finish at MR side. M drop ML-WR joined hands over the W to waist level.

5-6 In "wrap" pos balance fwd and back with 2 polka steps.

7-8 M dance 2 polka steps in place as you help W turn back to place. Dancing 2 polka steps, W turn R (CW) under ML-WR raised joined hands.

9-10 Repeat action of meas 1-2 (Fig IV) but this time L shldr adjacent.

11-12 Repeat action of meas 3-4 (Fig IV) but W turn R under MR-WL raised joined hands to finish at ML side.

13-14 Repeat action of meas 5-6 (Fig IV).

~~15-16 Still in "wrap" pos, again balance fwd and back with 2 polka steps. (DO NOT unwrap!)~~

V. TACONAZO AND PUSH

1-4 Facing LOD and still in "wrap" pos dance 4 Taconazo steps in place: R,L,R,L.

5-8 Beg R dance 7 push steps to the R finishing with a bounce on both ft.

9-16 Repeat action of meas 1-8 (Fig V) beg L and moving L.

INTERLUDE

1-2 Dropping MR-WL hands M step R,L,R, hold in place while W dance a 3 step turn to the L (L,R,L, hold).

3-4 Both turn with 4 steps to finish in closed ballroom pos M facing LOD: M make one full turn L (CCW) stepping L,R,L,R; W turn 1 1/2 R (CW) stepping R,L,R,L.

VI. "APACHE" STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

This whole figure is danced "cheek-to-cheek" and bent fwd at waist so that the "derriere" protrudes.

1-2 Moving in LOD step fwd on L pushing joined hands fwd twd W hip (ct 1), step in place on R (ct &), step bkwd on L pulling joined hands back twd M hip (ct 2), step in place on R (ct &). Repeat action of meas 1

3-4 With joined hands at M hip and beg L, M walk fwd 8 steps turning heel of trailing ft out with each step (keep front of ft in contact with floor -- hips do not turn or twist). W walk bkwd with "Broken Ankle" (no wt) on trailing or fwd ft.

5-16 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VI) three more times.

VII. BOUNCY HEEL AND TOE (To ctr and out)

1 Standing upright in closed ballroom pos with M facing LOD, hop on R placing L heel

out to L (ct 1), hop on R placing L toe across in front of R (ct 2).

2 Moving twd ctr step sdwd L on L (ct 1), close R to L (ct 8), step sdwd L on L (ct 2), hold (ct 8).

3 Step on R in front and slightly to L of L "Broken Ankle" (ct 1), step on L in front and slightly to R of R (ct 2).

4 Step on R beside L (ct 1), bounce on both ft (ct 2).

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4 (Fig VII) with opp ftwk and moving in opp direction.

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

VIII. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

1-16 Repeat action of Fig I meas 1-16.

IX. SDWD TWO-STEP AND "BROKEN ANKLE"

1-16 Repeat action of Fig II meas 1-16.

X. FWD POLKA AND STAMPS

1-15 Repeat action of Fig I meas 1-15.

16 Still facing LOD stamp L with body bent from waist and joined hands pointed twd stamping ft (ct 1), stamp L with joined hands extended overhead and body upright (ct 2).