Šokačko kolo
Croatia (Baranja)

Šokačko kolo (shoh-KATCH-koh KOH-loh), a circle dance of the Škač (shoh-KAHTZ) people, is very popular and important to the festivities and celebrations of Slavonija, Baranja and Bačka. Its history is long and varied, with considerable diversity in musical instrumentation, vocals and dance patterns, repeated under general control of the musicians, who may regularly switch to a slower rhythm, with singing and simple dance movements in the circle. The dance was taught at the 1987 Mendocino Folklore Camp by F. A. Dubinskas, at the 1998 and 2009 Stockton Folk Dance Camps (UoP) by Željko Jergan and at the 2010 Heritage Festival in San Carlos, CA by Tom Sha. Here we follow Željko’s version, learned by him in 1989 at Đakovački Vezovi (Village group of Draž). Dorothy Daw helped with his ’98 Syllabus.

**Music:**
- CD: Baština Hrvatskog Sela by Ottov, Band 14.
- Videos: Stockton Folk Dance Camps: 1998 and 2009. The Camp videos are sold only to Camp participants, but may be viewed by all in the University of the Pacific (UoP) Library.

**Formation:**
Mixed. Preferably M and W alternate in a circle facing ctr, wt on L, W-hands on M shldrs. M hands are joined behind W backs, or holding W belts at their sides. If the group is mostly W, all may use back-basket hold or belts, R over L.

**Steps:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>2/4 meter</th>
<th>PATTERN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. DRMEŠ - fast music</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Step-bounce R to R (cts 1, &amp;); bringing L to R ankle, hop-bounce R (cts 2, &amp;).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Step-bounce L to L, then step-bounce R beside L (cts 1, &amp; 2, &amp;).</td>
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<td>3-4</td>
<td>Rpt meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction. Step R to R, hop R, close L to R with wt (cts 1, 2, &amp;). (M) (only) Variation: On meas 4, ct &amp;, step L behind R, instead of closing L to R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-16</td>
<td>Repeat meas 1-4 for a total of four times, but step bkwrd L on ct 2 of meas 16.</td>
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<td>II. STAMPING IN AND OUT - face approximately ctr</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Moving twd ctr and turning hips to face L of ctr, step-hop on R across L, (cts 1, 2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Twisting to face R of ctr, step-hop on L across R (cts 1, 2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Twisting to face L, stamp R across L; stamp L back to place to face ctr (cts 1, &amp;2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Moving bkwd, twist to face R of ctr, and stamp-hop R behind L (reel) (cts 1, 2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Twisting to face L of ctr, stamp L behind R; stamp R across L (cts 1, &amp;2).</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Turning to face R and moving toward ctr, stamp-hop L across R (cts 1, 2).</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Twisting to face L of ctr, stamp R across L (ct 1); facing ctr, stamp L behind R (reel) (cts &amp;2). Move bkwd with light running steps R, L (cts 1, 2).</td>
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III. CIRCLE CW WITH STAMPS
1-2 Moving RLOD, face L of ctr and step-hop R (cts 1, 2); step-hop L (cts 1, 2).
3-4 Stamp R, L on full ft (cts 1, &2). Stamp-hop R in RLOD (cts 1, 2).
5-6 Repeat meas 3-4 with opp ftwk.
7-8 Repeat meas 3. Step R, L fwd in RLOD (cts 1, 2).

IV. CIRCLE CW WITH SLOW MUSIC (Vocal)
1-2 Facing ctr, stand in place with ft apart (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).
3-4 Sway once sideways R then sideways L (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).
5 Facing L of ctr, step on R across L twd ctr (cts 1, 2).
6 Step diag bkwd L out of circle on L (cts 1, 2).
7-8 Repeat meas 5-6.
9-12 Facing ctr and moving RLOD, dance grapevine: step R across L, L in RLOD, R behind L, L in RLOD (cts 1, 2, 1, 2); repeat these four steps (cts 1, 2, 1, 2).

Sequence: Figs. I, II, I, II, III, II, IV. Repeat for a total of three times, omitting Fig. IV in finale.

Lyrics    Šokačko kolo – Fig. IV    Translation
Ej, milo mi je i po volji mi je Hey, it feels good and makes me happy
Kad se draga na mene nasmije, When my sweetheart is smiling at me!
Ej, kad se draga na mene nasmij(o)! Hey, when my sweetheart is smiling at me!
Aj, curo moje, moje janje milo Hey, my dear girlfriend and sweet little lamb
Tebi dajem i dušu i tilo! I’m giving you my soul and my body!
Ej, tebi dajem i dušu i til(o)! Hey, I’m giving you my soul and my body!

YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOUR INPUT!

Have you ever noticed that some dances will get everyone out of their chairs or away from the snacks? No matter how good the conversation or how tasty the treat, when the music for those dances comes on, everyone drops what they're doing and runs out to the dance floor.

Where I dance Pravo Rodopsko, Andro Retourne, Valle Pogonishte, Ba La or Polka Dots will usually do the trick.

The Federation would like to create a list of those "chair clearers." We want to know what dances will get everyone onto the floor where YOU dance. While they may not be your personal favorites, you recognize that when the music starts, everyone gets up to join the dance.

So, how about it? You don't have to be the teacher or officer or leader to participate - you just have to be willing to observe and share those observations. We'd like to get 10 dances from each group (5 non-partner and 5 partner dances, unless your group doesn't do couple dances). When you go dancing the next few times, make a note of the dances that empty the chairs and fill the dance floor, and email the results to suwey@fotkdance.com. We will compile the list and publish the results.

It is our hope that the list will (1) assist event planners when they are considering dances to include on their playlists, and (2) suggest to dance clubs new dances they might consider adding to their repertoire.