

Šokačko kolo

Croatia (Baranja)

Šokačko kolo (shoh-KATCH-koh KOH-loh), a circle dance of the Šokac (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 Otrov, Band 14.
Cassettes: Croatian Folk Dances: Jerry Greevich, Vol II, Side B/1; Treasury of Croatian Dances: Jerry Greevich & Željko Jergan, Side A/3; Croatian Dances 1998, Side B/3. 2/4 meter
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 shldr. 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: Drmeš: Danced on balls of ft, with bouncy steps from ankles: legs are somewhat stiff. Steps to L are larger than to R, producing a net CW circle-progression.
and Step-Bounce and Hop-Bounce: A full-footed Step or Hop on the even ct is followed by a sharp lift on the ball of the ft ahead of, and lowered to the full ft on, the & ct. The very rapid small movements require a stiff supporting leg. Stamp and stamp-hop are with wt.
Styling: Extremely rigid during basic dance, with vertical movements and sometimes bent knees. M may improvise from many variations; W dance only the basic, as presented here.

Measure	2/4 meter	PATTERN
4	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> - 8 chords. No action.	
I.	<u>DRMEŠ</u> - fast music	
1	<u>Step-bounce</u> R to R (cts 1, &); bringing L to R ankle, <u>hop-bounce</u> R (cts 2, &).	
2	<u>Step-bounce</u> L to L, then <u>step-bounce</u> R beside L (cts 1, &, 2, &).	
3-4	Rpt meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction. Step R to R, hop R, close L to R with wt (cts 1, 2, &). <u>M (only) Variation</u> : On meas 4, ct &, step L behind R, instead of closing L to R.	
5-16	Repeat meas 1-4 for a total of four times, but step bkwd L on ct 2 of meas 16.	
II.	<u>STAMPING IN AND OUT</u> - face approximately ctr	
1	Moving twd ctr and turning hips to face L of ctr, <u>step-hop</u> on R across L, (cts 1, 2).	
2	Twisting to face R of ctr, <u>step-hop</u> on L across R (cts 1, 2).	
3	Twisting to face L, <u>stamp</u> R across L; <u>stamp</u> L back to place to face ctr (cts 1, &2)	
4	Moving bkwd, twist to face R of ctr, and <u>stamp-hop</u> R behind L (reel) (cts 1, 2).	
5	Twisting to face L of ctr, <u>stamp</u> L behind R; <u>stamp</u> R across L (cts 1, &2).	
6	Turning to face R and moving toward ctr, <u>stamp-hop</u> L across R (cts 1, 2).	
7-8	Twisting to face L of ctr, <u>stamp</u> R across L (ct 1); facing ctr, <u>stamp</u> L behind R (reel) (cts &2). Move bkwd with light running steps R, L (cts 1, 2).	

