

Stenka

(Russia)

Stenka (STYEHN-kah) is a khorovod (round dance) originally for women, reflecting the matriarchal society. The title means "little wall." This version of the dance is from the Arkhangelsk (ark-HAHN-gelsk) region in northern Russia and is done to the dance song "Pryalitsa" (little distaff). Other versions, to different songs and with different styling, are found all over Russia. This version was researched by Hennie Konings, introduced in Holland in 1986, and presented by him at the 1993 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in Stockton, CA. Another dance, Igolka, uses the same music.

CASSETTES: Russian Dances – Hennie Konings, "Pryalitsa" Side B/7. 2/4 meter

FORMATION: A square of indeterminate size with approximately an equal numbers of dancers on each side (ideally 8-15 on a side), facing ctr. Hands in each line are joined in W-pos; end dancers hold free hand in W-pos also. Side 1 contains the leader and is the line on the musicians' left. Remaining sides are numbered CW from Side 1.

STEPS Walk* (2 steps per meas): Step R (ct 1); step L (ct 2).

and STYLING: Hands make *very* small circles up, fwd, and around throughout the dance, except when bowing. Tempo of circles is 2 per measure.

* Described in *Steps and Styling*, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc.

Measures	2/4 meter	PATTERN
Pickup + 6 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> No action. Beg Fig 1 with the word "Pryalitsa."	
	I. <u>SIDE ONE ACTIVE; SIDE THREE FOLLOWS</u>	
1-5	Beg R, Side 1 walk 10 gliding steps fwd twd Side 3.	
6	Step R,L,R in place (cts 1,&,2). Nod head to acknowledge opp line.	
7-12	Side 1: Beg L, back up 12 steps to original place. Side 3: Repeat meas 1-6, moving fwd twd Side 1 as it retreats.	
13-18	Side 1: Bow deeply from hips (meas 13-15); slowly become erect (meas 16-18). Side 3: Beg L, back up 12 steps to original place.	
	II. <u>SIDE TWO ACTIVE; SIDE FOUR FOLLOWS</u>	
1-18	Repeat Fig 1 with Side 2 active and Side 4 following.	
	III. <u>SIDE THREE ACTIVE; SIDE ONE FOLLOWS</u>	
1-18	Repeat Fig 1 with Side 3 active and Side 1 following.	

IV. SIDE FOUR ACTIVE; SIDE TWO FOLLOWS

1-18 Repeat Fig I with Side 4 active and Side 2 following.

72 meas REPEAT FIGS I - IV.

V. ENDING

1-22 Beg R, all sides walk CCW and end dancers of each side join hands to form one large circle. Music retards on meas 22; close ft together and face ctr.

23-24 Bow twd ctr and straighten up.