

Szot Madziar

(Poland)

(This description replaces the draft version erroneously published in the February issue of *Let's Dance*.)

Szot Madziar (SHOT MAH-djahr) is a non-partner dance from Cieszyn in the Śląsk ethnographic region of southwestern Poland. This town is located on the border with the Czech Republic and is on the north-south traditional trade route known as the "amber road." As such, this area was subject to many international influences. This dance is an example of a dance adopted from the Hungarians. "Szot" has no known translation, but "Madziar" of course refers to its Hungarian origins. Richard Schmidt taught this dance at the 2004 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. He learned it from Leokadia Magdziarz, an expert on Polish folk dance, and since 1973 the Artistic Director of the Polish dance group Podhale in Montreal. A couple dance with the same name was taught by Jacek and Bozena Marek at Stockton Camp in 1997.

CD: *Folk Dances from Poland*, edited by Richard Schmidt, Vol. 1, Band 3. 2/4 meter
Formation: Open circle, mixed sexes, all dancers facing ctr of circle with hands on hips
(fingers fwd, either straight or folded into a loose fist, thumb back).

Steps: Polka hops: Rise on ball of L ft (ct &, prev. meas), make long step fwd on R ft (ct 1); short step fwd on L ft (ct &); medium step fwd on R ft (ct 2). Footwork alternates on successive measures. Steps are done on the balls of the feet giving this figure an uplifting feeling. This step is done during Figs IV and V.

Individual fast turns (1 meas): In Schmidt's original dance notes, individual turns taking one meas were generally written as three steps (cts 1,&,2) plus a close or touch (ct &). For example: Fig. I, meas 6,8; Fig. III, meas 7; Fig. IV, meas 7. In practice, these turns are difficult to execute this way, especially as the music speeds up. Therefore, we have described them as Schmidt actually does them in his video presentation.

Meas	2/4 meter	Pattern
1 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> No action.	
	I. <u>BOKAZOS AND HEEL TOE SLAPS</u>	
1	Moving sideways in LOD, step on R ft to R (ct 1); step on L behind R with small dip on both legs (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); close L to R (no wt) (ct &).	
2	Slow bokazo: with wt on R ft, point L toe straight out in front (ct 1); point L out to L side (ct &); close L sharply to R (cts 2,&).	
3-4	Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.	
5	With wt on L ft and using straight leg, swing R leg across in front of L and land ft on R heel (M swing legs higher) (ct 1); bring ball of R ft down on floor with emphasis switching wt to R ft and bending R knee slightly (dip) while lifting L off the floor and bend L knee behind (ct &); switch wt back on ball of L ft in place (ct 2); lower L heel to floor (ct &).	

6 Dance 1 full turn to R (CW) with 3 steps (RLR) (cts 1,&,2).

7-8 Repeat meas 5-6 with opp ftwk and direction.

II. GRAPEVINE WITH HEEL TWISTS

1 Moving in LOD, step on R to R (ct 1); step on L behind R (ct &); step on R to R (ct 2); step on L in front of R (ct &). While doing this, join with persons on either side by extending arms parallel to the floor and grasping the other persons upper arms just below the shoulder.

2 Repeat meas 1 in same direction.

3 Continue moving in LOD. but facing ctr, step to R on R ft, close L to R; repeat.

4 Facing ctr, rise on balls of ft and twist heels apart (ct 1); bring heels back together (ct &); repeat (cts 2,&).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction.

III. HEEL TOE SLAPS, LEAPS, TURN AND BOKAZO

1 With arms still extended in upper arm hold, dance step-close-step to R (cts 1,&,2); with wt on R lift L leg and swing it across in front of R (ct &).

2 Place L heel down (ct 1); bring flat of L ft down with emphasis while lifting R ft off the floor with bent knee (ct &); switch wt back to R ft in place slightly lifting L ft off the floor (cts 2, &).

3-4 Repeat meas 1-2 with opp ftwk and direction.

5 Moving to the R leap onto R lifting the L ft off the floor with knee bent (ct 1); still moving to R, leap on to L ft behind R while bringing R leg up with knee bent in front of L leg (ct &); still moving R, jump on both feet closing R to L (cts 2,&).

6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and moving to L.

7 Returning hands to hips, turn to R 1 full turn with 3 steps (RLR) (cts 1,&,2) and hold or step L in place (ct &); end facing ctr.

8 Fast bokazo: jump onto both ft with R crossed over in front of L with heel twisted L (ct 1); jump again bringing ft apart but with toes close together and heels apart (ct &); click heels together (ct 2); hold (ct &).

IV. POLKA HOPS, TURN WITH BOKAZO

1-6 Turn to face LOD and dance 6 Polka hop steps fwd in LOD, beginning with R ft (raise on ball of L to begin).

7 Turn to R (CW) with 2 steps (R,L) (cts 1,2).

8 Repeat Fig. III, meas 8 (fast bokazo).

V. POLKA TURNS, SLOW HEEL CLICKS

(Note the tempo of the music is faster for Figs. V and VI.)

- 1-2 Dance 2 Polka hop steps twd ctr of circle, starting with R ft (raise on ball of L to begin).
- 3 Dance 1 Polka hop step backward (beg. with R ft) and turning CW ½ turn on cts 2 or 3 so as to end facing out.
- 4 Dance 1 more Polka hop step (beg. with L ft) away from ctr while turning R (CW) to end facing twd ctr.
- 5 Moving in LOD, turn to R (CW) with 2 steps (R, L) to face ctr.
- 6 With wt on balls of ft, push heels out keeping toes together (ct 1); click heels together (ct 2).
- 7 Repeat meas 5 with opp. ftwk and direction.
- 8 Repeat meas 6.

VI. HEEL TOE SLAPS, TURNS, BOKAZO

- 1-4 Repeat Fig. III, meas 1-4 (step-close-steps and heel slaps).
- 5 Dance step-close-step to R (R,L,R) (cts 1,&,2); hold (ct &).
- 6-7 Make one complete turn to R (CW) with 2 steps (L,R) and repeat to L (CCW) with same ftwk.
- 8 Repeat Fig. III, meas 8 (fast bokazo). [Schmidt's original description called for a bokazo starting with the L ft crossed in front. On his video performance, he did it with the R ft. It works either way.]

Repeat dance three times more. There is a brief finale in which dancers step fwd raising arms in graceful gesture.