

ZAMBAY MACHO

(Mexico)

Zambay Macho (Zahm-buy May-çoh) is a carnival dance of the chicle gatherers from Chetumal on the peninsula of Yucatan. The chicleros live in the jungles and come out to Merida in Yucatan for their fiestas and purchases.

The CARNAVAL in Merida is one of the most famous CARNAVALES in all of Mexico. During the CARNAVAL the people march in parades. There are organized groups from neighborhoods, towns, and regions. Each group is called a COMPARZA. Each COMPARZA vies for prizes for their costumes and also for their dances.

All of the dances of the CARNAVAL are dances of movement so as not to interrupt the line of march.

Albert S. Pill learned this dance from Professor Amado Lopez Castillo, teacher of regional dance in Mexico City, and introduced it at the University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp in 1960.

MUSIC: Record: ASP 6003B

FORMATION: Circle of cpls, ptrs facing, M back to ctr. W hold skirt in front; M hands naturally at sides. Footwork the same for M and W throughout the dance.

STEPS AND STYLING: Zambay Two-step: Raise R from the floor, while turning body diag to R (ct &), step R to R with toe pointed out (cts 1-2), close L

to R (ct 3), step R to R with toe pointed out (cts 4-5), pivot slightly on R, turning body diag L (ct 6). Repeat Zambay Two-step to L, beginning L.

Zambay Skip Step (2 per meas): Raise R slightly (ct &), step fwd on R (cts 1-2), chug bwd on R (ct 3), raise L slightly (ct &), step fwd on L (cts 4-5), chug bwd on L (ct 6). Knees are turned out and body leans fwd.

Dos sa dos*

*Described in volumes of Folk Dances from Near and Far, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1095 Market Street, Room 213, San Francisco, California 94103.

MUSIC 6/8

PATTERN

Measures

8 meas INTRODUCTION - No action.

I. FACE TO FACE AND PARTNERS CIRCLE

A 1-16 Facing ptr, dance 16 Zambay Two-steps in place, alternately turning diag R and L.

B 17-20 Ptrs join both hands, arms rounded, and circle CW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.

21-24 Reverse direction and circle CCW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.

25-32 Repeat action of meas 17-24. Finish in original place, M back to ctr. Release hands.

Zambay Macho (concluded)

II. INDIVIDUAL CIRCLES AND CROSSED WRIST TURN

- A 1-8 Circle to own R (CW) with 8 Zambay Two-steps.
9-16 Circle to own L (CCW) with 8 Zambay Two-steps.
- B 17-20 Ptrs raise R hands to shoulder height, elbows bent; cross wrists and circle once CW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
21-24 Turn in twd ptr, cross L wrists and circle once CCW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
25-32 Repeat action of meas 17-24 (Fig II) to finish in own place. Release hands.

III. DOS A DOS AND PULL AWAY CIRCLE

- A 1-8 With 8 Zambay Two-steps ptrs dos a dos, passing R shoulders.
9-16 Repeat dos a dos, passing L shoulders.
- B 17-20 Join both hands, arms straight fwd (stay face to face), pull away from ptr and circle once CW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
21-24 Circle once CCW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
25-32 Repeat action of meas 17-24 (Fig III) to finish in own place. Release hands.

IV. SINGLE CIRCLE AND TURN WITH PARTNER

- A 1-6 Dance 6 Zambay Two-steps in place, alternately turning diag R and L.

- 7-8 With 2 Zambay Two-steps turn 3/4 to own R, moving into a single circle to face ptr. M face CCW (LOD), W CW (RLOD).
9-14 Repeat action of meas 1-6 (Fig IV).
15-16 Take 2 Zambay Two-steps to finish in original place, facing ptr in double circle, M back to ctr. Both move CW.
- B 17-20 Join both hands, R arm outstretched, L elbow bent, R hips adjacent, and circle CW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
21-24 Reverse pos, and with L hips adjacent, circle CCW with 4 Zambay Skip steps.
25-32 Repeat action of meas 17-24 (Fig IV). Finish in own place. Release hands.

V. FOLLOW EACH OTHER AND COUPLE MOVE FORWARD

- A 1-8 With 8 Zambay Two-steps, W move in individual CCW circle. M follow directly behind her.
9-16 Both turn R, reverse direction to move in CW circle, W following directly behind M. On last step M turn 1/4 R, W move in front of M to stand at his R side, both facing CCW (LOD).
- B 17-32 Join inside hands, and with heads held high, dance fwd (LOD) with 8 Zambay Skip steps. Wave free hands in and out.
(These final steps correspond to progression to dance in a new place when the CARNAVAL parade stops again.)