

Zek Zek Dadumle

(Balkan Roma)

Zek Zek Dadumle (Zek Zek DAH-doom-lay) is a popular Roma song originally from Romania which has spread throughout the Balkan countries (Serbia, Bulgaria, and Macedonia). Steve Kotansky taught a 4-measure Tikino Oro/Čoček-type dance to a Bulgarian version of this song at the Veselo Festival 2020 in Eugene, Oregon. Roberto Bagnoli learned this dance from Steve and then taught it over Zoom session during a virtual workshop for the Folk Arts Center of New England to over 400 people from around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Music: 2/4 meter Kotansky, Steve *Balkanot 2020*
Search YouTube for “Cvetelina Zek Zek Dadumle”
- Video: Life Balkan Dancer Asako Oshiro recorded two videos. Search YouTube for “Life Balkan Dancers Zek Zek Dadumle”
- Formation: Open circle of dancers facing center with W- or V-hold, leader on the R.
- Steps & Styling: Light, free, small steps, Roma styling.
- Čukče: A small lift of heel.
- Twizzle: A small rotation of the heel (i.e., CCW movement of the slightly raised toe).

Measures	2/4	PATTERN
1-8	Introduction. – No action.	
1	Facing ctr, touch R toe fwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); touch L toe slightly fwd (ct 2); step L next to R (ct &).	
2	Touch R toe slightly fwd (ct 1); step R next to L (ct &); step L slightly back and to L (ct 2); step R fwd (ct &).	
3	Touch L toe fwd diag L (cts 1, &); swing L across and in front of R with slightly bent knee (ct 2); step L fwd (ct &).	
	<u>Variation</u> : Ct 2 can also be a small kick fwd with L.	
	<u>Variation</u> : Čukče on R while lifting L fwd (ct 1); čukče on R again while swinging L in a low arc around to R (ct &, 2); step L in front of R (ct &).	
4	Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R (ct &); step R to R (ct 2); step L in front of R (ct &).	
	<u>Variation</u> : Cts 1 and 2 can be done with a twizzle on the L	
	<u>Variation</u> : This can also be done as a grapevine, with L behind R on the last ct.	



Steve and Suzie Kotansky
2016. Photo by E. Khuner.

Note: Variations noted can be done at any time, at the discretion of each dancer.

Zek Zek Dadumle — continued

Lyrics There are many versions in different languages. Here are a few.

Zek, zek dadule, dadula dadule, zek, zek, zek, zek dadule, dadula, dadule.

Zek, zek dadumle, dadumla, dadumle, zek, zek, zek, zek dadumle, dadumla, dadumle

Igrajmo, pevajmo, cele noci ludujmo,
Gagi bend svira sad, njega voli ceo, ceo grad

Let's dance, let's sing, let's party all night,
Gagi band is playing now, the whole city loves them!

Igrajte, mesajte, snama vam je najbolje,
Gagi bend svira sad, njega voli ceo Beograd.

Dance, move, you have the best time with us,
Gagi band is playing now, all of Belgrade loves them!

Zek, zek dadule, daj skini nanule,
Pa zigray sitnije, nista nije bitnije.
Zek, zek dadule, daj skini nanule,
Jer kad bi se skinula, zelja bi me minulaaa.

Zek, zek dadule, take off your sandals,
Dance with smaller steps, nothing matters more,
Zek, zek dadule, take off your sandals,
If you took off your clothes, my desire would let me be.

Ti kradesh po noshtite, ne koli, jenite grabish ti
Tsennoto vzimash im,
no dobro kazvat che im pravish ti.
Na vrati ne chukash ti, chakat te sami puskat te,
Vsiaka nosht grabish gi,
no dobro kazvat che im pravish ti.(Haide Cvetelina)

You steal at night, not cars, but women are what you loot.
You take from them what's precious, but they say you do them
good.
You never knock at doors, they wait and let you in themselves.
Every night you take from them, but they say you do them
good. (Come on, Tsvetelina)

Vlez, v men da kradesh da vidia dobro li e
Men,men,men,men da kradesh, che drugite hvaliat te
Vlez v men da kradesh da vidia dobro li e
Men,men,men da kradesh,che drugite hvaliat te.
(Fortza Costi Fortza Fortza Haidee)

Enter, steal from me so that I can see whether it is good.
Me, me, me, steal from me for the rest say you're so good.
Enter, steal from me so that I can see whether it is good.
Me, me, me, steal from me for the rest say you're so good.
(Foza Costi, forza, forza, come on)

Viața mea eu te iubesc
te iubesc ce mult te iubesc !

I love you, my life, I love you so much!
I want you, my life, I love you so much!