

Hegi

(Basque Provinces)

Hegi (HEH-gee) is a member of the jautziak, mutxikoak, saltos or sauts family of dances, referring to the types of short step patterns. Each pattern has a name descriptive of its action. There are varying styles of dancing this dance. The style from Valcarlos in northern Navarra is presented here.

One finds Hegi danced throughout the Basque Provinces in Spain and France and among Basque-American groups. Hegi was first introduced in the United States by Candi DeAlaiza, and the LP recording was produced by Westwind International Folk Ensemble.

In practice, this dance is leader-called, much like a square dance. The choreography set forth below fits the piece of music listed.

Music: 2/4 meter Westwind International Basque Dances CDWI-3334. Or write to Roo Lester (dancingroo@aol.com), who introduced the dance, for the music.

Video: There are multiple instances on YouTube if you search for “Hegi Basque Dance.”

Formation: Individuals in a circle or around the edges of the dance space. The dance progresses both CCW and CW. There is no contact between the dancers.

Steps & Styling: Navarrese style of dancing with small hops and leaps as well as walking steps. Dancers carry their weight over the front or balls of the feet and usually have their toes turned outward. Step patterns always begin with the outside foot in relation to the center of the circle.

There are other styles of dancing this dance as well as some of the step patterns. Usually dancers knowing different styles have no problem dancing together in the same circle.

Meas	2/4 meter	STEPS USED IN THIS DANCE
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PIKA (PEEK-ah): “sharp.” Can also be danced CW with opposite footwork.

1 Step R fwd (cts 1-2).

2 Step L fwd (ct 1); bring R slightly in front (ct 2).

3 Step on R toe slightly behind (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2).

EBATS (EH-bahtz): make a half-turn CW or CCW.

1 Leap onto R, making ½ turn L to face CCW (ct 1); bring L instep to R heel (ct &); leap onto L bringing R instep to L heel (ct 2);

2 Leap onto R bringing L instep to R heel (ct 1); step on L toe, slightly behind (ct 2).

3 Step R in place (cts 1-2).

PIKA BIETAN (PEEK-ah BYEH-tahn): “pika two times.”

1-6 Repeat Pika twice, continuing CCW.

ERDIZKA (EHR-deez-kah): Half turn.

1 Hop on L, bringing R in front (cts 1-2).

2 Leap sideways onto R (ct 1); step L slightly behind R (ct 2).

3 Leap onto R in place (ct 1); step on ball of L slightly behind R (ct 2); step R slightly across L (ct 2).

4 Step R fwd and in front of L, moving and facing slightly CW (cts 1-2).

LAUETAN ERDIZKA (LAO-tahn EHR-deez-kah): Four half-turns. Dance four Erdizka steps facing ctr, beg R (also called Erdizka Lauetan).

Hegi – *continued*

Meas **STEPS USED IN THIS DANCE**

JAUTZI (EEE-owt-ee): “jump” (also spelled zautzi and zote).

1 Facing CCW, leap fwd onto R and bring L instep to R heel (cts 1-2).

2 Step on L toe slightly behind R; step R in place.

3-4 Repeat action of meas 1-2 with opp ftwk.

5-8 Repeat Erdizka CCW.

1-8 **DOBLA** (DOH-blah): “double back.”

Repeat Jautzi and Erdizka in the opp dir with opp ftwk, starting facing and moving CW with a leap forward onto L.

ANTRETXANTA TA FINI (AHN-treh-shahn-tah TAH FEE-nee): “entrechat and finish.”

1-2 Repeat meas 1-2 of Erdizka CW.

3 Leap onto L in place, touching R next to L (ct 1); leap onto R in place, touching L next to R (ct 2).

4 Jump up and exchange ft pos while in air, landing with same foot fwd as at start (cts 1-2).

Dance Cues for sequence of this dance:

Pika, ebats	(to the R)	}	Danced twice
Pika, ebats	(to the L)		
Pika bietan, ebats	(to the R)	}	Danced twice
Pika bietan, ebats	(to the L)		
Lauetan erdizka	(to R, to L, to R, to L)		
Jautzi, erdizka	(to the R)		
Dobla, erdizka	(to the L)		

Antretxanta ta fini replaces the last part of the last Erdizka step at the end.

It's A Wrap – continued

Evenings were fun this year, with Stacy Rose calling contras, squares, and mixers during the Once Over Lightly evening review. Stacy did a great job of putting us all through our paces in a fun and efficient manner in the evenings. Second week, three others – Karen Wilson-Bell, Lothar Narins, and Robert McOwen – joined the contra-squares-and-mixers team.

The Wednesday afternoon Directors' Wine and Cheese Reception puts everyone in a good mood for the live auction. One never knows what kinds of things will be auctioned, which is half the fun of it. Several costumes, modeled by students from Portland, were highlights. A handmade quilt donated by Wendy Brown fetched a good price. There were other items of many types; I enjoy seeing who most values the item being auctioned. The auction benefits the camp scholarship fund, and it raised \$3510 during the first week of camp and slightly more than that the second week!

Wednesday was Picture Night, and the various costumes that friends are wearing made for good photos. Wednesday evening is also the Candle-Lighting Ceremony. It never fails to bring a tear to my eye and warmth to my heart. Thursday brings teacher sales of music and videos, the silent auction, and the Hat Kolo. The first-week silent auction raised \$1163!

Friday night premiered a new event: the Bizarre Bazaar Kolo! One had to be wearing an item purchased at the Camp Bazaar in order to participate. It seems that Stockton staff are always coming up with new ideas!

Saturday is always bittersweet. After review sessions, there is the Talent Show, one of my favorite parts of the week. Funny, poignant, charming, or impressive – the acts never fail to entertain. Saturday also features the final banquet in the event. The theme this year was a Hoedown, and the interpretations of that theme were many and varied. The western fare featured barbecue, cornbread, and coleslaw, with apple pie and ice cream for dessert. After that, of course, we danced the night away!

If you weren't at Stockton Camp, we missed you, and you missed out!