

Jihočeska Kolečka

(Czech Republic)

Jihočeská Kolečka (yee-oh-CHESS-kah koh-LEHCH-kah) is a typical dance from southern Bohemia with unique steps not used in any other areas. The name translates as “south Czech wheels”, but in this context “wheels probably means “circle dance.” The choreography of this dance has 2 modes, slow in 3/4 beat and faster in 2/4 beat, and it would be danced in a Czech village on an evening when young people are meeting and dancing together. It changes back and forth between dancing in a large circle of dancers and dancing with a partner. The dance was taught by Jitka Bonušová at the 2014 Stockton Folk Dance Camp. The singer is Radek Rejček who with his wife Eva taught at Stockton in 2000 and 2001. Bill and Louise taught this dance at the 2014 Folk Dance Federation N. Officers’ Ball in Livermore.

CD: Music: 3/4 meter and 2/4 meter; *Czech Folk Dances, Track 1* (Stockton 2014); *Officers’ Ball, Track 4* (Folk Dance Fed. of Calif. 2014).

Video: *2014 Stockton Folk Dance Camp DVD*. Camp videos can be viewed in the library at the University of the Pacific, or by contacting a Camp participant who purchased it. This dance is demonstrated by Jitka Bonušová and Jan Pumpr.

Formation: Formation: Couples face toward ctr in a circle of dancers; M on L, W on R, hands joined in V-pos.

Steps & Styling Kolečko Step: Two steps on 3 counts. Slightly longer step R fwd (ct 1); extend L fwd (ct 2); step fwd on L (ct 3).

Kolečko Ballroom Position: Modified ballroom position. W’s L arm is on the M’s upper arm rather than his shoulder. Joined arms are extended and pointed diag down. M’s L hand, palm down, grasps W’s R hand which is also palm down.

Soudek (Barrel) Position: Facing ptr, M places hands on W’s shoulder blades; W places hands on M’s upper arms; elbows out to side. Rotate CW with a double-time “buzz” step with emphasis on R ft stepping fwd (ct 1). Tempo of buzz can be varied.

Measures	3/4 and 2/4 meter	Pattern
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INTRODUCTION. No action. Couples stand in place. Wait for second phrase of the lyrics when music changes to 3/4 meter.

I SWAY-BOUNCE IN PLACE.

1-2 (3/4) With feet about shldr width apart, sway to R with slight knee bend, and double bounce (2 small “downs”) on cts 1 and 3. Repeat meas 1 to the L.

3-12 Repeat meas 1-2 five more times.

II. WALK IN A LARGE CIRCLE AND AS A COUPLE.

1-4 (2/4) All dancers keep hands joined in one large circle and move CW (RLOD) four slow walking steps, one step for each measure, starting with R ft.

- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 but join both hands with ptr and walk in a CW circle, opening on the last step into the large circle of dancers.
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

III. KOLEČKO STEPS WITH STAMPING. Note the variable rhythm in this figure.

- 1-4 (3/4) In the large circle of dancers with hands in V-pos, dance 4 Kolečko Steps moving CW.
5-7 (2/4) Step fwd on R (ct 1); stamp L fwd with wt. (ct 2); repeat 2 more times.
8-9 (3/4) Repeat meas 1-2 (2 Kolečko Steps).
10-12 (2/4) Repeat meas 5-7.
13-14 (3/4) Repeat meas 1-2 (2 Kolečko Steps).
15 (2/4) Step R fwd (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2) while M makes a 1/4 turn R to face ptr.
16-29 Repeat meas 1-14, but dance as a couple in Kolečko Ballroom Position.
30 Take 2 steps to end with cpl side by side facing ctr of circle, M's R arm around W's waist, W's L hands on M's shldr.

IV. SWAYING IN PLACE.

- 1 (2/4) With feet about shldr width apart, sway to R (ct 1) with slight knee bend; bounce down on R (ct 2). Repeat to the L. This is the same movement as Fig I, meas 1-2, but in a 2/4 meter, so there is only a single bounce on each count.
3-8 Repeat meas 1-2 three more times.

V. STEP-HOPS AND WALKS.

- 1-2 (2/4) Take hands in big circle and moving in RLOD (CW) step R ft fwd (ct 1); hop on R lifting L and bringing it fwd (ct 2). Repeat with opp ftwk.
3-4 Take four fast walking steps (R,L,R,L), each step on one ct.
5-16 Repeat meas 1-4 three more times.
17-24 Assume Kolečko Ballroom Position, repeat meas 1-8, rotating CW as a cpl in place. End with M's back to the ctr, and release M's R, W's L hand and separate slightly.

VI. WOMAN TURNS.

- 1-4 M does four step-lifts in place starting with R, while W uses eight walking steps to make two CW turns under the joined hands (M's L, W's R). M's R arm extends straight out at shldr height. As the W rotates, M's L arm, starting held down, makes a sweeping circular motion for each of the two turns. W can dip slightly when moving under the M's arm.
5-8 Repeat Fig. V, meas 17-20 (2 step-hops and 4 walks as ptrs).
9-16 Repeat meas 1-8.

VII. STEP-HOPS AND WALKS.

- 1-16 Repeat Fig V meas 1-16.

VIII. FINAL BUZZ TURN.

- 1-16 M puts hands on W's shldr blades; W put hands on M's upper arms. Soudek Buzz step in place until meas 15. On meas 16, release M's L and W's R arm and end in side-by-side pos with ft together facing ctr.