

HASAPIKOS

Greek

PRONUNCIATION: hah-SAH-pee-kohs

TRANSLATION: Fast butchers' dance

SOURCE: Dick Oakes learned this dance in the Greek community of Los Angeles. Athan Karras, a prominent Greek dance researcher, also has taught Hasapikos to folk dancers in the United States, as have many other teachers of Greek dance, including Dave Rosenberg at the 1960 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference, Oliver "Sonny" Newman at the 1963 Stockton Folk Dance Camp, Vilma Matchette at the 1967 Santa Barbara Folk Dance Conference, and John Filcich at the 1970 Stockton Folk Dance Camp.

BACKGROUND: The Hasapikos was called Makellarion Horon ("makellarios" is the Greek word for "butcher") during Byzantine days because it was adopted by the butchers' guild in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). The dance is also spelled Hassapiko ("hassip" is Turkish for "butcher"). It is also known as Zoero (lively). The dance is mostly known outside of Greece because of its being danced during the Syrtaki in the film *Alexis Zorbas* (titled *Zorba the Greek in America*). The Hasapikos is sometimes referred to as Hasaposervikos, whose basic step is based on that of the fast Hasapikos. Other dances that have a similar dance motif are the Arkan of the Ukraine, the Hora of Israel, the Debki of the Arab countries, the Kasapsko Horo of Bulgaria, the Kasapsko Kolo of Serbia, the Lesnoto of Macedonia, and the Soorch Bar of Armenia.

In case you were wondering, Hasapikos is in the nominative case and Hasapiko is in the accusative case.

MUSIC: Festival (45rpm) 3513-B
Folkraft (LP) 8
or any fast hasapiko music.

FORMATION: Lines of mixed M and W with hands holding neighbors' shldr in "T" pos. The dance also may be seen being danced with hands joined with elbows bent and held at shldr height in "W" pos (although this is not as stable).

METER/RHYTHM: 2/4

STEPS/STYLE: The dance has a happy, joyful, high-spirited, and carefree nature.

MEAS

MOVEMENT DESCRIPTION

INTRODUCTION

None or at the discretion of the leader.

THE DANCE

- 1 Step (or leap) R swd (ct 1); step (or leap) L across in back of R (ct 2);
- 2 Step (or leap) R swd (ct 1); hop R, swinging L across in front of R (ct 2);
- 3 Step (or leap) L swd (ct 1); hop L, swinging R across in front of L (ct 2).

Repeat dance from beg.

VARIATIONS

Several variations are danced, such as:

- Cross in front (instead of back) on meas 1;
- Double-time leaps on meas 1;
- Pas de Basque (triplet) steps on meas 2 and 3.

The leader also may release his hand hold and

- Dance a CW turn on the two steps (or leaps) on meas 1, or even
- Signal for the entire line to dance a CW turn on the two steps (or leaps) on meas 1.