

GRAOVSKO HORO (ΓΡΑΟΒΣΚΟ ΧΟΡΟ)

(Grah-ov-sko Hoe-rro)

Sofia District (Shope Region), Western Bulgaria

- Source: As learned by Tom Deering from various people over the years. This arrangement is really a combination of two dances, Graovsko Horo and Divotinsko or Sitno Shopsko Horo, the latter done when the music changes tempo and melody.
- Rhythm: Graovsko (slower): 2/4 counted 1 & 2 &
Divotinsko (faster): 2/2 counted 1 2
- Music: Any Graovsko music be used, although for this arrangement music that changes to the faster Shopsko Horo at the end is required. The following recording is excellent:
Balkanton BHA 1971: MaLashevsko Horo
- Formation: Short lines of men and women. Dancers can hold belts or hands, although not mixed in the same line. Belt hold is most common.

The dance travels to the right, with the leader on the right end. At the beginning of each Graovsko dance pattern, the dancers will be facing left and moving right (backwards). The Divotinsko section is danced essentially in place.

Meas Ct Basic Graovsko (slower music)

- Start with weight on L foot, facing L ready to move R
- 1 1 Facing L, **Step** back onto R
2 **Step** on L beside R
2 REPEAT measure 1
- 3 1 Turn to face R (line of dance), **Step** on R
& **Step** on L beside R
2 **Step** on R
4 1 **Step** on L
& **Step** on R beside L
2 **Step** on L
- 5 1 Turn to face center, leaving some weight on L, **Step** on R in place next to L with slight jump
2 **Lift** L up sharply in front of R leg
- 6 1 **Step** on L sideways to L
2 **Step** on R in front of L, bending both knees
7 1 **Step** on L sideways to L, straightening both knees
2 **Step** on R behind L
- 8 1 Leaving some weight on L, **Step** on L in place with slight jump
2 **Lift** R up in front of L leg
- 9 1 **Touch** R next to L
& Small bounce on L, **Lifting** R slightly
2 **Step** on R across in front of L, bending both knees slightly
- 10 1 **Touch** L next to R, standing tall
& Small bounce on R, **Lifting** L slightly
2 **Step** on R across in front of R, bending both knees slightly

Continued...

GRAOVSKO continued

<u>Meas</u>	<u>Ct</u>	<u>Variation I (Substitute the following into the basic dance)</u>
3	1	Turning to face R (line of dance) Step on R forward, bending knees and leaving L in place
	2	Rise up by straightening R knee, lifting entire body up about 6". L foot should be off the floor
4	1	Step on L beside R
	&	Step on R beside L
	2	Step on L forward

Variation II - Prances (Substitute into the basic dance)

9	1	Step on R in place, lifting L knee across in front of R leg
	2	Step on L in place, lifting R knee across in front of L leg
10		REPEAT measure 9

Note: When the music speeds up, the dancers usually just do the basic pattern much faster. An alternative is to switch to a different set of steps that are more comfortable with the faster music:

Meas Ct Divotinsko or Sitno Shopsko (fast music)

Shopka Step (each step is 1 meas. long but usually done in even numbers):

1	1	with weight on ball of L foot and R foot off the floor, Touch ball of R foot next to L, while also bouncing on L so L heel touches floor
	&	Lift R foot straight up while also bouncing on L so L heel touches floor
	2	Step on R in place, lifting L foot
2		Repeat measure 1 with opposite footwork

The Dance Sequence - repeat to the end of the music

1-8		Standing tall and facing center, 8 Shopka Steps in place
9	1	Touch R heel forward, dropping R shoulder very slightly
	2	Step on R slightly behind where heel touched floor
10		REPEAT measure 9 with opposite footwork
11	1	Lift R slightly behind while tapping L heel and dropping R shoulder very slightly
	2	Step on R slightly behind
12		REPEAT measure 11 with opposite footwork
13	1	Lift R slightly in front while tapping L heel
	2	Stamp R heel slightly in front
14	1	Step on R in place lifting L slightly in front
	2	Stamp L heel slightly in front
15	1	Step on L in place, scooting R foot forward (scissor step)
	2	Step on R in place, scooting L foot forward
16		
	1	Bring L next to R and tap Both heels on floor
	2	Lift R sharply up in front of L knee while tapping L heel