

KUCANO
Macedonia

Source: As learned by Thomas Deering from Pece Atanasovski at his Macedonian Folkdance Institute, Otesevo, Macedonia, July 1976.

Rhythm: 12/8 counted: Slow, Quick, Quick, Slow, Quick
 1 2 3 4 5
 1 & ah 2 & 3 & 4 & ah 5 &
This rhythm is commonly known as "Beranče rhythm."

Recordings: RTB LP 1394 (Pece Atanasovski Orchestra)
Folklorist 45rpm #F-104-45 (Dennis Boxell)
AMAN LP 103

Formation: Originally a women's dance, danced now in mixed lines. Hands are held up and slightly forward ("w" position) except during the travelling introduction and the faster step.

Steps: **Čukče:** Lift the heel of the supporting foot slightly before the beat, bringing it down on the beat.

Meas Ct INTRODUCTION (arms down)

Begin the dance at the beginning of a musical phrase.

1 1 Facing and moving R (LOD), **Step** forward on R
 2 **Čukče** on R with L foot behind R calf
 3 **Step** forward onto L
 4 **Step** forward onto R
 5 **Step** forward onto L

2-(6) REPEAT meas 1 as many times as desired

(7) 1 REPEAT meas 1 count 1 (**Step** R)
 2 REPEAT meas 1 count 2 (**Čukče** on R)
 3 REPEAT meas 1 count 3, turning slightly to center (**Step** L)
 4 Turning to face center and Raising hands to "w" position, **Step** on R slightly towards center*.
 5 **Step** onto L in place, taking full weight but leaving the R foot in place in front

* This step into the center embodies much of the essence of the dance. It is initiated with a dip on the supporting leg by bending the supporting knee then standing upright just as the extended foot makes contact with the ground.

SLOWER STEP (arms up)

1 1 Facing Center, **Lift** R foot with **Čukče** on L in place
 2 **Place** R foot slightly to R without taking weight
 3 Take **weight** on R, bending R knee
 4 **Step** onto L slightly towards center*.
 5 **Step** back onto R in place, taking full weight but leaving the L foot in place in front

2 REPEAT meas 1 with opposite footwork

3 1 **Lift** R foot with **Čukče** on L in place (1)
 Turning slightly and moving R, **Step** to R onto R (1 & ah)
 2 **Step** on L beside R foot
 3 **Step** forward (LOD) on R, bringing L foot to close behind R
 4 **Step** on L beside R.
 5 **Step** forward (LOD) onto R

4 1 **Lift** L leg beside R with **Čukče** on R in place (1)
 Step onto L beside R (1 & ah)
 2 **Step** forward (LOD) onto R
 3 **Step** forward (LOD) on L, turning slightly to center
 4 Turning to face center, **Step** on R slightly towards center*.
 5 **Step** on L in place, taking full weight, leaving R ft in place in front

Continued...

Meas Ct FASTER STEP (arms down)

When the music speeds up, the "in place" steps take on the character of the of the "travelling" steps above. Hands are lowered at the beginning of measure 3 of the previous step.

- 1 **1** Facing Center, **Lift** R foot with **Čukče** on L in place (1)
 Step onto R in place (1 & ah)
 2 **Step** on L beside R foot
 3 **Step** on R in place
 4 **Step** onto L slightly towards center*.
 5 **Step** back onto R in place, taking full weight but leaving the L foot in place in front

2 REPEAT meas 1 with opposite footwork

3-4 REPEAT measures 1 & 2

5-6 REPEAT measures 3-4 of the slower step

Dancers can return to the slower step as the music allows. The leader signals this by bringing her arms up to the "w" position on count 4 of the fourth measure--just before the "travelling" steps begin.