

OVČEPOLSKO ORO
Macedonia

Named after the ovčepole ("sheep field") region in central Macedonia, which is located between sveti Nikola and Štip, southeast of Skopje. This dance shows a heavy Serbian influence, brought into Macedonia while it was under the Serbs and spread throughout the country largely by the itinerant gypsies.

Source: As learned by Tom Deering from Pece Atanasovski, at his camp in Oteševo Macedonia, 1976.

Rhythm: 11/16 counted: Quick, Quick, Slow, Quick, Quick
 $\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ 2/16 & 2/16 & 3/16 & 2/16 & 2/16 \end{matrix}$

Recordings: Jugoton LPY-50985: Macedonian Folk Dances, Pece Atanasovski
 AMAN LP 104
 Folklorist 45 rpm: FL-104: Boxell, Festival Records

Formation: Danced in mixed lines holding hands with arms down ("V" position) with the leader on the right end of the line. The dance can be started on any measure. Step changes are signalled by the leader when "the music feels right."

Step Note: **Čukče**: Lift the heel of the supporting foot slightly before the beat, bringing it down on the beat. The ball of the foot does not leave the floor.

Meas Ct **STEP 1 - walking step (slow music)**

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | Facing and moving R, bending slightly at the waist, Step forward on R ft in line of direction (LOD) |
| | 2 | Continue through step |
| | 3 | Step on L ft forward in LOD, straightening body |
| | 4 | Čukče on L |
| | 5 | Step on R ft forward in LOD |
| 2 | 1 | Čukče on R |
| | 2 | Step on L ft forward in LOD, preparing to face center |
| | 3 | Turning to face center, Thrust R ft forward to center, toe down and close to floor |
| | 4 | Pull R back and Touch floor slightly back, next to L heel |
| | 5 | Leaving R where it touched floor, put Heel to floor taking full weight |
| 3 | 1 | Still facing center, small Step back on L |
| | 2 | Step in place on R ft |
| | 3 | Thrust L ft forward to center, toe down and close to floor |
| | 4 | Step on L ft slightly back, next to R ft |
| | 5 | Lift R leg up low in front of L shin |

STEP 2

- | | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 1 | 1 | Facing and moving R, light Step forward on R ft in LOD |
| | 2 | Step forward on L ft in LOD |
| | 3 | Step forward on R ft in LOD, bending R knee slightly |
| | 4 | Hop on R ft, straightening knee |
| | 5 | Step forward on L ft in LOD |
| 2 | 1-2 | Continuing light running steps forward in LOD: Step R, Step L, |
| | 3 | Turning to face center, hop on L ft, Thrusting R ft forward to center, toe down and close to floor |
| | 4 | Hop on L again |
| | 5 | Small Step back onto R ft |
| 3 | 1 | Small Step back onto L ft |
| | 2 | Step in place on R ft |
| | 3 | Small hop on R ft, Thrusting L foot forward to center, toe down and close to floor |
| | 4 | Small Hop on R ft |
| | 5 | Small Step back onto L ft |

Continued...

OVČEPOLSKO ORO (continued)

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Meas Ct STEP 3

- 1-2 REPEAT measures 1-2 of Step 2
- 3 1 Small **Step** back onto L ft
2 **Step** in place on R ft
3 Small hop on L ft, **Thrusting** L foot forward to center, toe down
and close to floor
4 Small **Hop** on R, turning to face L
5 Moving L, **Step** forward (RLOD) onto L ft
- 4 1 **Hop** on L ft
2 Continuing L, **Step** forward on R ft
3 Small hop on R ft, **Thrusting** L foot forward to center, toe down
and close to floor
4 Small **Hop** on R ft
5 Small **Step** back onto L ft

STEP 4 - Turns

- 1 REPEAT measure 1 of Step 3
- 2 1-2 Continuing light running steps forward in LOD: **Step** R, **Step** L,
3 Turning to face center, hop on L ft, **Thrusting** R ft forward to
center, toe down and close to floor
4 **Hop** on L ft again, beginning a single turn in place (CCW)
5 Small **Step** onto R ft, continuing CCW turn
- 3 1 Small **Step** onto L ft, continuing CCW turn
2 **Step** in place on R ft, finishing CCW turn to face center
3 Small hop on L ft, **Thrusting** L foot forward to center, toe down
and close to floor
4 Small **Hop** on R, turning to face L
5 Moving L, **Step** forward (RLOD) onto L ft
- 4 REPEAT measure 4 of Step 3
- Note: When this step is called by the leader, everyone drops hands as
the turn starts. Hands are then placed on the hips with fingers
back and palms out for the duration of the step.

STEP 5

- 1-4 REPEAT Step 3 until the end of the music

Variation: REPEAT just measure 1 of Step 3 until the end of the music

Note: When Pece presented this dance in the United States in 1972 he did not teach
Step 1 as I describe it above. Instead he taught just a less energetic version of
step 2. I learned the step 1 directly from Pece at his camp in Macedonia in 1976.
It provides a much more relaxed introduction to the dance.