

Baztan-Dantza

Navarre, a Basque Province in Spain

Baztan-Dantza is characteristic of dances in the Baztan Valley, located very close to the French border, in Navarre, Spain. Baztan-Dantza is a member of the mutil-dantzak (moo-teel dahn-sahk, meaning men's dances) family. Mutil dances usually have short repeated patterns with many turns. Historically they were all men's dances, but by the early 1970's women began to join the dance at a few large festivals. Though traditionally a social dance, it was also performed by groups of men who traveled throughout Navarre. One may find many versions of the dance within the Basque communities in Europe and the United States. Candi de Alaiza learned this dance from Marie Maritorea in 1975 and introduced the dance in the international folk dance community. I learned the dance from de Alaiza.

The group of instruments used for this dance is referred to as a charanga. It is comprised of a combination of accordion, clarinet, bass drum, saxophone, trumpet or cornet and snare drum.

Pronunciation: BAHS-tahn DAHN-sah

Music: 2/4
WI 3332, Basque Dances, Side A, Band 9
Basque Dances CDWI-3334, band 5

The dance begins after the 3rd drumbeat.

Formation: Any number of dancers in a circle. Begin facing LOD/CCW around the dance space.

Steps: The step patterns used in this dance are the parts of the schottische, assembled in various ways.

Style: Danced with toes turned out, comfortably, and on the balls of one's feet.

Gestures used while turning: On all turns traveling LOD, whether CW or CCW, bring arms up with the upper arms out to each side horizontally, the lower arm up vertically. Snap your fingers on the & count (hops) during turns. This applies to Parts I, II, and IV.

On all step hop turns, the free foot is brought in front of the supporting legs' ankle, with an accent. The accent is on the & count, coinciding with the finger snap.

Part I (Travel)

Meas.	Counts				
	1	&	2	&	
1	R	L	R	Hop	Moving LOD
2	L	R	L	Hop	Moving LOD
3	R	Hop	L	Hop	Turn CW while moving LOD
4	R	L	R	Hop	In place, facing LOD
5-6					Repeat Part I Measures 1-2 with opposite footwork
7	L	Hop	R	Hop	Traveling LOD turn CCW
8	L	R	L	Hop	~ In place, end facing LOD

Part II (Short turns 2X)

	1	&	2	&	
1	R	Hop	L	Hop	Turn CW while moving LOD
2	R	L	R		In place, facing LOD
3	L	Hop	R	Hop	Turn CCW while moving RLOD, end facing center
4	L	R	L		~ In place, end facing LOD
5-8					Repeat Part II Measures 1-4

Part III (Short travel 2X)

	1	&	2	&	
1	R	L	R	Hop	Moving LOD
2	L	R	L	Hop	Moving LOD
3	R	Hop	L	Hop	Moving backwards, gesturing free leg to the side
4	R	L	R	Hop	~ In place, facing LOD
5-8					Repeat Part III, Measures 1-4 with opposite footwork

Part IV (Turns 6 step hops, making 3 CW turns, 2X)

1	R	Hop	L	Hop	Make 1 CW turn while moving LOD
2	R	Hop	L	Hop	Make 1 CW turn while moving LOD
3	R	Hop	L	Hop	Make 1 CW turn while moving LOD
4	R	L	R		In place, facing LOD
5	L	Hop	R	Hop	Turn CCW while moving RLOD, end facing center
6	L	R	L		~ In place, end facing LOD
7-11					Repeat Part IV, Measures 1-5
12	L	R			Step L, R, bring L to R, no weight, end facing LOD

Part V (Step brushes with claps)

	1	&	2	&	
1	L	Brush	R	L	In place, end facing center (step rhythm is slow, quick, quick)
2	R	Brush	L	R	In place, w/ 1/4 turn to face RLOD/CW
3					In place facing RLOD, Clap hands chest height on counts 1, &, 2.
4	R	Brush	L	R	In place, end facing center
5	L	Brush	R	L	In place, w/ 1/4 turn to face LOD/CCW
6					In place facing LOD, Clap on counts 1, &, 2

The dance repeats.