

# Pembe - Gypsy Variation

(Serbia)

This dance comes from the city of Vranje and the Vranjsko Polje region in southern Serbia.

Pronunciation: PEHM-beh

Music: 4/4 meter

Formation: Open circle of dancers; alternating M and W, M face out and W face in, holding hands at shldr height, arms almost straight, so that they form an inner circle of men and an outer circle of women. Turn body slightly twd LOD.  
Note: When a woman dances in the man's position, she should dance the woman's steps. At the Lyrids folk dance festival, everyone faced center in an open circle.

Steps & Styling: Soft bounces on each step.

Meas 4/4 meter Pattern

## I. FIGURE I.

- 1 Standing on L, small kicks of R ft to L and R in front of ankle (cts 1-2); rock bkwd R, bending slightly at waist (ct 3); step fwd L (ct 4).
- 2 Skipping steps with ft very close to ground, moving CCW: hop L (ct 1); step R fwd (ct &); hop R (ct 2); step L fwd (ct &); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).
- 3-4 Repeat meas 1-2.

## II FIGURE II

- 1 Lift R (ct 1); three step (R, L, R) in place (ct 2-4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftk.
- 3 Releasing hands (but M's hands remain at shldr level, W's at head level), touch R fwd (ct 1) - *Turn body slightly so L hand is higher and more fwd as R ft touches*; If in single circle, move twds ctr; walk fwd two steps (R, L) (cts 2-3), step R (ct 4) making half-turn L (CCW). If in partners, pass ptr by L shldr, with M moving away from ctr and W moving twds ctr; same footwork for cts 2-4.
- 4 Touch L in place (ct 1) - *Turn body slightly so R hand is higher and more fwd as L ft touches*; If in single circle: move away from ctr, walking fwd three steps (L, R, L) rejoining hands (cts 2-4). If in partners: M move twd ctr, W move away from ctr, same footwork for cts 2-4, rejoining hands.
- 5-8 If in single circle, repeat meas 1-4 starting facing out, ending with everyone facing LOD. If in partners, repeat meas 1-4, except on meas 8, M turn CCW to join W, forming one line.

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III. FIGURE III (Traveling) (Note: done with very flat feet)

- 1 Touch steps moving CCW: Touch R fwd (ct 1); step R fwd (ct 2); touch L fwd (ct 3); step L fwd (ct 4).
- 2-3 Repeat meas 1 twice (a total of six touch-steps).
- 4 Touch R twd ctr (ct 1); leap bkwd R (ct 2); leap L to L (ct 3); leap R in front of L (ct 4).
- 5-8 Repeat meas 1-4 moving CW with opp footwork. If in partners, M use meas 8 to turn out L to the Fig I position and rejoin hands.

Note: the last time Fig III is done (just before Fig V), meas 8 becomes a "touch-step-touch-step" (cts 1-4). Do not turn out into Fig I position, but end facing ctr.

IV. FIGURE IV (drumming, only 6 full cts)

M and W face each other. W: make a half-turn L with 12 small, quick steps in place, beg R. (R,L is ct. 1,&). Arms are bent at the elbow at head height and coil inward around each other. Twist hips slightly from side to side during each step. M: touch R fwd (ct. 1), step R in place (ct. &), touch L fwd (ct. 2), step L in place (ct. &), repeat 2 more times (6 cts total), moving arms as in Fig II. All end facing LOD.

V. FIGURE V (Pembe)

- 1 Facing ctr, touch L in front of R (ct 1); small bounce on R (ct 2); lift L fwd with bent knee (ct 3); step L next to R (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk.
- 3 Tap L in front of R (ct 1); small bounce on R (ct 2); lift L up and behind R with slight turn of body to face CW (ct 3); step L behind R (ct 4).
- 4 Step R to R (ct 1); step L in front of R with slight turn of body to face CCW (ct 2); lift R in front (ct 3); step R next to L with slight turn twd ctr (ct 4).

Sequence: Fig 1, Fig II, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV, Fig III twice, Figure V to the end.

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