

Pazardžijska Kopanica - Bulgaria

"Kopanica line dance" from the region of the town of Pazardzik in the transition area between Sopluk and Trakia. Kopanicari translates to diggers, woodcarvers, which might either indicate that this type of dance was originally associated with the people practicing this profession. or could also be a reference to the complex foot patterns and curved movements in the dance.

Among dancers and musicians the word Kopanica is often used to indicate a dance in 11/8 (2-2-3-2-2). The Kopanica's of the Pazardzik region are usually slower and often start out with a walking pattern, since they are traditionally done to songs.

Rhythm: 11/8 (2-2-3-2-2), counted as 1-2-3-4-5 (Q-Q-S-Q-Q)

Formation: Long lines, open or half circle. Hands held at belt hold position, L arm over.

Introduction: Dance starts after the slow Na Trapeza introduction.

Basic Step: **Kopanica-step**

In LOD, step on R (ct 1), step on L (ct 2), step on R (ct 3), hop on R lifting L knee in front (ct 4), step on L (ct 5)

Meas **Part 1: Hodene "Walking"**

Moving in LOD, use long reaching walking steps landing on flat feet

1 Step on R, leaning slightly into R hip (ct 1,2), step on L, moving hip back to ctr (ct 3), step on R, leaning slightly into R hip (ct 4,5)

2 Repeat action of meas 1 with opp ftwk, only leaning hip to right side.

3-8 Repeat action of meas 1-2 three more times

Meas **Part 2: Kopanica**

1-8 Starting with R ft, do 8 Kopanica-steps. See basic step above.

Meas **Part 3: Na Vatre "Inside"**

1 Do Kopanica-step, optionally changing ct 3 to hop on L, step on R (ker-plunk)

Measure 2 is the Sowalka "Shuttle" step

2 In LOD, step on R ft (ct 1), step on L ft (ct 2), small lift on L ft turning L heel in to face ctr, then stepping on R ft slightly bkwd (ct 3), step on L ft (ct 4), step on R ft behind L ft (ct 5)

Measures 3 to 8 describe 2 individual CW circles

3 Facing ctr, step on L ft to L (ct 1), step on R ft behind L ft (ct 2), step on L ft twds ctr (ct 3), step R while moving to twds ctr (ct 4,5)

4 Step L in front of R turning R to face LOD (ct 1,2), step on R ft (ct 3), hop on R ft lifting L knee (ct 4), step on L ft (ct 5)

5 Repeat Sowalka-step (meas 2)

6-8 Repeat meas 3-5

Meas **Part 4: Stomping step**

1 Facing ctr, step on L ft to L (ct 1), step on R ft behind L (ct 2), stomp L ft forward (twd ctr), R ft staying behind (ct 3), step on R ft in place, L ft staying in front (ct 4), stomp on L ft in place (ct 5)

2 Step on R ft in place (ct 1), step on L ft next to R ft (ct 2), stomp R ft forward (twd ctr), L ft staying behind (ct 3), step on L ft in place, R ft staying in front (ct 4), stomp on R ft in place (ct 5)

3 Repeat meas 2 with opp footwork

4 Step on R ft in place (ct 1), step on L ft next to R (ct 2), stamp with R ft in place toes turned out to R (ct 3), stamp with R ft next to L ft toes parallel (ct 4), hold (ct 5)

5-8 Repeat action of meas 1-4, keeping a hold on cts 1-2 of meas 1

Repeat dance from the beginning two more times.