

## Hutsulka - Гуцулка

(Western Ukraine)

Hutsulka is a popular Ukrainian folk dance from southwestern Ukraine. This dance has been a very common participatory dance in villages in western Ukraine, from at least the 19th century to today. Hutsulka is related to *kolomyika*-type dances. There are many different variants of *hutsulka* in many different villages. All of them are typically danced in circles that break down into smaller circles and couples, circling to fast-paced music. The name of the dance refers to a girl from the province (oblast) of Hutsulshina. This dance was choreographed by George and Irina Arabagi.

Pronunciation: hoo-TSOOL-kah

Music: 4/4 meter *Ukrainian Dance Workshop, Track 6*

Formation: All dancers in a mixed circle facing CCW. M's hands are clasped behind the back. W's thumbs are in an imaginary vest.

Steps & Styling: (2 meas) Swaying Step: Small bounces on each ct. Facing ctr, step R to R with L ft on the floor with toes pointed, and sway the body to R (ct 1); step L to L with R ft on the floor with toes pointed, and sway the body to the L (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); step L next to R (ct &); step R to R (ct 4); step L next to R (ct &). Arms are in "V" position.  
Crossing Step: Step on R toes in front of L, rising and turning head to L (ct 1); step L in place (ct 2); step on R toes to R, rising and turning head to ctr (ct 3); step L in place (ct 4).

| <u>Meas</u> | <u>4/4 meter</u>   | <u>Pattern</u> |
|-------------|--|----------------|
| 8 meas      | <u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action.   |                |
|             | I. <u>WALKING STEPS/HOP STEPS</u>  |                |
| 1           | Four Walking steps moving CCW R, L, R, L (cts 1-4). There is a corresponding movement of the head during the walk: As the dancer steps R, the head tips slightly to R; as the dancer steps L, the head tips slightly to L. |                |
| 2           | Step fwd R (ct 1); hop on R (ct 2); step L fwd (ct 3); hop on L (ct 4).  |                |
| 3-8         | Repeat meas 1-2 three more times, ending facing ctr.   |                |
|             | II. <u>HEEL-TOE/SIDE-TO-SIDE</u>   |                |
| 1           | Face ctr holding arms in V-pos. Step R heel fwd, bending fwd at waist (ct 1); step L heel fwd next to R heel (ct 2); step bkwd on R toe and straighten (ct 3); step bkwd on L toe next to R (ct 4).                        |                |
| 2           | Repeat meas 1.   |                |
| 3           | Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2); step R to R (ct 3); hop on R and raise L knee at 45 degrees (ct 4).   |                |
| 4           | Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk.   |                |
| 5-8         | Repeat meas 1-4.   |                |

Hutsulka — continued

III. SWINGING STEPS

1 4 Swinging Steps holding arms in V-pos.

IV. CROSS/STAMPS IN TURN

1-2 2 Crossing Steps.

3 Note: Make a full turn to R (CW) during meas 3-4. Step R in place next to L (ct 1); stamp L next to R (ct & ); step L next to R (ct 2); stamp R next to L (ct &); step on R next to L (ct 3); stamp L next to R (ct &); step L next to R (ct 4); stamp R next to L (ct &). M holds his hands behind his back. W holds her thumbs in an imaginary vest.

4 Repeat meas 3. End with stamp L (ct &); step L (ct 4).

5-8 Repeat meas 1-4.

Sequence: Fig I, Fig II, Fig III, Fig IV. The dance goes through 3 times.

Presented by George & Irina Arabagi



According to one theory, Hutsuls are descended from Croats who inhabited western Ukraine until the 12th century; according to another, they descended from a now-vanished Slavic tribe called the Uliches, who'd been pushed out of their homeland farther south along with the Tiverians; both were fully assimilated by yet another Slavic tribe by the 10th century. Hutsuls identify themselves as a part of the Ukrainian ethnos, having at the same time their local identity as a sub-ethnos.

The drawing is dated 1902.