

LOS TACHOS

(S.W. France—Gascogne region)

This rhythmic stick dance was brought to the U.S. in late 1993 by Françoise Carbonnel, an elementary school teacher from Montrouge, France, when she was on an exchange program in Naperville, Illinois. The Gascogne language has a Spanish flavor, being on the southern border of France. A *tacho* is a bucket or a pot, probably used in this context as a percussion vessel, as is possible to hear on the recording.

Music, DVD: Music for “Los Tachos” and 14 other dances is found on Sanna’s CD#3, *Dances of the Seven Continents, Vol. 1*, with instruction visually illustrated on the accompanying DVD #6 (*white and blue*). **Meter: 4/4**

Formation: Partners in a single circle facing clockwise or sunwise, one partner (#1) in front of the other (#2). Men are in front, if in mixed-gender pairs. Each person carries a short stout stick, holding it with both hands horizontally behind his/her own back.

MOVEMENT PATTERN

Measures

PART I: Traveling around the circle.

- 1-2 Schottische step: R forward, L close to R, R forward, hop on R. Repeat, starting with L foot.
- 3-16 Repeat meas. 1-2 three more times (8 schottische steps in all). On last measure, Partner #1 turns half around to face Partner #2 as Partner #2 holds stick up in front, firmly like a candle, using both hands.

PART II: Hitting sticks

- 1-4 Partner #1 hits Partner #2's stick across from R to L, then L to R in this rhythmic pattern (hear it in the music):
- Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q S S S... tiri tiri tiri tiri ti ti ta
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 2 3, 4
- 5-8 Partner #2 then hits Partner #1's stick in the same pattern.
- 9-12 Partner #1 hits Partner #2's stick again in the same pattern.
- 13-16 Not to be outdone, Partner #2 gets equal time. At the end, Partner #1 turns halfway to face clockwise (as in the beginning), and the dance starts again with the circle figure.

PRESENTED BY SANNA LONGDEN. Notes by Sanna Longden © 2009, based on those by Mady Newfield, Chicago, and François Carbonnel, Mountrouge, France. From “Dances of the 7 Continents, Vol. 1”, published by FolkStyle Productions. All rights reserved. Used by Permission.