## POVŬRNATO HORO

## Bulgaria

Notes by Dick Crum, revised 3/91.

Povŭrnato horo (po-VRR-nah-to ho-RO, 'backtrack horo') is only one of many names given to this extremely widespread Balkan dance. In Bulgaria it is also known as Šareni čorapi, Napred-nazad, etc. Macedonian variants are known as Devetorka, Tri godini, etc., and in Greece there is a Thracis n version bearing the name Chromatistá tsourápia.

Recordings: Many are available; an excellent one produced in the U.S. is Folk Dancer MH 45-3041, *Devetorka*.

Meter: 9/8. For ease in learning the dance described here, the 9/8 meter has been divided into 4 dancer's beats with a rhythm pattern of quick-quick-quick-SLOW:

Dancer's beats (counts)	_	2	_	_
Rhythm	•	q	-	_
9/8 notation	ļ	ļ	)	١,

Formation: Open circle, mixed men and women. Hands are joined and held at sides ("V" position).

## MEAS ACTION

Meas 1 Facing slightly R of ctr and moving in LOD, take 4 steps as follows: step Rft (1); step Lft (2); step Rft (3); step Lft (4).

Note: Natives sometimes vary the movements of meas 1 in an improvisatory way. For example, Lft may step in back of Rft (causing dancer to momentarily face center) on ct. 2. Also, it is very common for the dancer to add a tiny "hitch hop" on Rft just before stepping onto Lft on ct. 4 (similar to common Greek styling in the syrtos and other dances).

- Meas 2 Still facing slightly R of ctr and still moving in LOD, take 3 steps and a close as follows: step Rft (1); step Lft (2); step Rf. (3); turn to face ctr and close Lft beside Rft without taking weight on Lft (4). (Note: As in the variation noted under meas 1, Lft may step in back of Rft on ct. 2 in this measure as well.)
- Meas 3 Facing ctr. step Lft sideward (1); close Rft beside (or in back of) Lft taking weight on Rft (2); step Lft sideward (3); close Rft beside Lft without taking weight on Rft (4).

## Variation ("bloop-bloops")

I observed the following variation in the dancing of several native Bulgarians from northern Thrace.

- Meas 1 Same as meas 1 of basic form described above.
- Meas 2 Counts 1, 2 and 3 same as in meas 2 of basic form described above. Then: take 2 very light steps, Lft-Rft, both on toes, on ct 4, dividing ct 4 into two beats ( ) ("bloop-bloop").
- Meas 3 Facing slightly L of ctr and moving in RLOD, step Lft (1); with tiny hitch hop on Lft, step Rft, continuing in this direction (2); turning to face ctr, step diagonally back/L on Lft (3); do one "bloop-bloop" step in place, Rft-Lft, turning to face slightly R of ctr in preparation for return to meas 1.