

ISSIOS
(Kalymnos, Leros, Greece)

Issios or Issos means "even" or "straight", and the dance is found throughout the Dodecanese Island group in the Aegean Sea. It can also be danced as an introduction to the livlier Sousta.

Source: The Kalymnian communities of Tarpon Springs, Florida and New York City, and the Lerian community of New York City.

Pronunciation:

Cassette: Greek Dance Sum '87

Rhythm: Variable, depending on the instruments and region

2/4: 2,1,1 = S Q Q. Dancers ct 1,2,3

8/8: 3,3,2 = S S Q. Dancers ct 1,2,3

7/8: 2,2,3 = Q Q S but dancers start on third beat so dance S Q Q

Formation: Open circle with V hold or front basket, L over R.

Meas

Pattern

BASIC

- 1 Facing slightly L of ctr, step bkwd to R on R (ct 1); step L behind R (cts 2,3).
- 2 Step bkwd to R on R (ct 1); touch L next to R (cts 2,3).
- 3 Step L twd ctr (ct 1); touch R next to L (cts 2,3).

VARIATION 1

- 1 As described above.
- 2 Step ~~bkwd~~^{twd} to R on R, bringing L knee close to R (ct 1); rock back on L (ct 2); rock to R on R (ct 3)*
- 3 Long step fwd on L twd ctr (ct 1); step fwd R (ct 2); step L next to or slightly behind R (ct 3)*.

VARIATION 2

- 1 As described above.
- 2 Ctl as in meas 2 of Variation 1; step L slightly diag bkwd to L (ct 2); step R slightly bkwd (ct 3).
- 3 Long step fwd on L twd ctr (diag R) (ct 1); step fwd R to the R of L (ct 2); step L next to or slightly behind R (ct 3).

*There is often a slight push-off from the foot once the step is completed, as a preparatory step for the next movement.

Presented by Joseph Kaloyanides Graziosi